

NEWS SUMMARY

187,000 workers may reap benefit

The Government may have to pay out millions of pounds after a test case against the Department of Health and Social Security over the claiming of unemployment benefit for part-time community programme workers (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

A tribunal of social security commissioners ruled yesterday that a man who is employed on a local community programme scheme in St Helens, Merseyside, should be able to claim unemployment benefit for the days that he is not working on the scheme.

Under existing rules those on community programme schemes are considered to be in employment and are not entitled to benefits on top of their wages of up to £60 - £65.

The DHSS said yesterday that the Government was now considering its position pending an appeal by the chief adjudication officer.

Depending on the outcome the department may have to pay benefit to more than 187,000 workers who work part-time for community schemes.

Anderton Standard case held

The High Court has ordered Bury magistrates not to hear a private prosecution for perverting the course of justice brought against Mr John Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and two other officers, for the time being.

Mr Kevin Taylor, the businessman concerned in the suspension of Mr John Stalker brought the action. Mr Anderton claims it is a device to hinder the investigation of an alleged fraud involving Mr Taylor.

Standard practice

The Office of Fair Trading yesterday rejected a demand by Mr Robert Maxwell for an investigation into the conduct of the publishers of *The London Evening Standard*, whom he had accused of obstructing the sales of his new *London Daily News*.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, concluded that the *Standard's* exclusivity arrangements with some vendors were unlikely to have significant effect on the scope for competition.

Prisoner record

The prison population in England and Wales reached a new record total yesterday of 48,903, including 315 in police cells, plunging the system into fresh crisis. The total has risen by 329 in the past week.

Dr Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "At this rate, the Government would have to open a new prison every 10 days to keep pace with the rising population." He called on the Home Secretary to use his power of amnesty for short-term, non-violent prisoners.

"The Government's whole strategy is in disarray." The Prison Department said last night it had no control over numbers sent to it by the courts. Prisoners had to be held.

Actress inquest

The death of Trudy Swann, an actress whose frozen body was found six weeks ago near her parents' home at West Mersea, Essex, was an accident, a coroner ruled yesterday.

The inquest at Colchester heard how Mrs Swann, aged 36, who was said to be suffering from depression after the birth of twin sons, climbed out of a window wearing only pyjamas. Her body was found the next morning in sand dunes 50 yards away. She died of hypothermia after wading into the sea.

Childs in car crash

The former Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Derek Childs, was critically ill yesterday after suffering serious head injuries in a car crash.

Mr Childs, aged 69, a father of two, was cut from the wreckage of his car by fire officers after he was involved in a head-on collision at a Cardiff junction. The former Archbishop, who was alone in the car, was taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary then transferred to the University Hospital of Wales where his condition was described as critical.

BT seeks Euro deal

British Telecom is proposing a consortium of UK electronics companies to bid for the contract to set up a European cellular radio telephone network.

At a meeting in Madeira last week, representatives from 14 European governments attempted to draw up a common technical standard for the system, due to become operational in 1991. All but France and West Germany agreed to the system favoured by Britain, and there are strong indications that these two countries will shortly bow to pressure to join in.

The network is likely to cost £2 to £3 billion to set up, and generate a £1 billion a year market for manufacturers of mobile communications equipment.

British security services accused of waging 'dirty war' Intelligence feud blamed for agent deaths

By Richard Ford

Ten British agents working in Northern Ireland at the height of a "dirty war" lost their lives because of rivalry between MI5 and MI6, it was alleged yesterday.

Two former Army officers serving in intelligence in the province claim the security forces ran a dirty tricks campaign involving assassination and the kidnapping of leading Republicans across the border in the Irish Republic.

One of the men says Robert Nairac, a captain in the Special Air Service, who was murdered by the Provisional IRA, admitted that he and two

other men killed a leading Republican south of the border in 1975.

The undercover fight against terrorism in the mid-1970s also allegedly involved co-operation between the Garda and British security forces, which allowed the SAS to operate in the South, and the "running" of three members of the Garda working in crucial border towns. Three officers provided British security forces with information on terrorist suspects living in border areas.

Mr Fred Holroyd, a former captain in military intelligence, and Mr Colin Wallace, a former Army information

officer, who led an undercover psychological operations unit, claim a "dirty war" of kidnapping and assassination was used against suspected Republican terrorists and that a dirty tricks campaign was waged against "loyalist" leaders with the aim of discrediting them.

Yesterday Mr Wallace alleged that the rivalry between MI5 and MI6 led to the killing of "10 agents in just one week" and that his superiors in the Army ordered him to cease co-operating with the secret service.

Mr Holroyd said Captain Nairac admitted that he and two other SAS men killed John Green, a Provisional

IRA commander who was found dead at an isolated farm house in Co Monaghan on January 10, 1975. Mr Holroyd alleged that Captain Nairac showed him a photograph of the dead man's body.

Captain Nairac, aged 29, who was serving with the Grenadier Guards, was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1979, two years after he was abducted from the Three Steps Inn at Forkhill, Co Armagh, by at least seven men. He was interrogated about his secret operations in South Armagh before being tortured and murdered.

Mr Holroyd, speaking on a BBC Radio Ulster programme, alleged that the SAS used members of the outlawed loyalist terrorist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) from Portadown to carry out kidnappings and assassinations.

He also said that in 1975 he travelled to Dublin, met Assistant Garda Commissioner Ned Garvey and other senior officers.

He said a number of disparate intelligence bodies had been brought together with the express purpose of "kidnapping and murdering suspected IRA men". The long-standing allegations made by both men are being examined by the Government and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, has told the Commons that "active consideration is being given to certain reports that have recently appeared" concerning the two men.

Mr Holroyd says he was forced to resign from the Army in 1976 after objecting to the MI5 "assassination policy".

Mr Wallace, born in Northern Ireland, was released from prison last December after serving just over half of a 10-year sentence imposed in 1981 for the manslaughter of an antiques dealer in Sussex.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, flanked by the 15 deaconesses admitted to Holy Orders at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Ordination of women

Catholic head regrets synod decision

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Cardinal Basil Hume, of Westminster, yesterday publicly exchanged courteous but coded comments on Thursday's decision by the General Synod in favour of female ordination.

The exchange coincided with the admission of the first 15 of 700 women candidates to Holy Orders in the Church of England.

The ordination in Canterbury Cathedral took place just one day after the promulgation in the synod of a new canon allowing women to become clergy in principle. Deacons are the first of the three ranks of Orders, the others being priests and bishops, and until last night they had invariably all been male.

Similar services are to follow in other cathedrals. All yesterday's 15 were already deaconesses, therefore already trained and qualified and working for the church.

They will now be permitted to conduct some marriage services, but the essential distinction between a deacon and a male priest, the ability to celebrate Holy Communion or to pronounce absolution from sin, will remain.

In the aftermath of Thursday's decision to proceed with

Norway's way 5
Women's calling 10

the drafting of legislation for the ordination of women priests, there was an unmistakable sense of triumph about the progress so far.

This was not shared by Cardinal Hume, who issued a statement saying he regretted the synod's decision. Dr Runcie once more emphasized that the final decision had not yet been made.

The implicit disagreement between them was whether the synod had raised the stakes: the cardinal clearly thought so, saying that church unity would now be "even further delayed". He made no reference to the ordination of

women deacons, however, as it is an issue that has not so far divided the churches in general, nor much divided the Church of England.

Cardinal Hume again referred to the synod's decision when he left London for Rome on routine church business. "I believe it is going to complicate very much the work that we are all trying to do for Christian unity. I think I am rather worried about that."

The main issue, as far as he was concerned, was that the Church of England had taken a decision "at a time when we are all trying increasingly to work together. So it is a great shame that they've done it on their own."

Lambeth Palace, reluctant to take issue publicly, was nevertheless offering the "clarification" that other parts of the Anglican Communion already have women priests, and it is the Anglican Communion and not just the Church of England which is engaged in unity talks with the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr Runcie, answering Cardinal Hume, said that he had "never disguised the fact" that ordination of women to the priesthood would complicate the search for unity. "This is one of the facts the Church of England will have to weigh carefully when it comes to take the decisive step towards the ordination of women."

Then he added what will undoubtedly become the Church of England's official answer to Rome's inevitable charge that it is contemplating a fundamental change in Christian doctrine: "It is important for Anglicans to indicate our conviction that we are not proposing to change the nature of the ordained priesthood, but rather to enlarge its eligibility."

Meanwhile, Deaconess Sally Fogden, aged 45, of Suffolk, who is to become a deacon in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on May 31, has arranged to conduct what may be the first Church of England wedding performed by a woman. She will officiate at the marriage of her daughter, Mary.

BR pension fund puts art works up for sale

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A start is to be made in June to the sale of the British Rail Pension Fund's art portfolio, it was announced yesterday.

Some £40 million was spent on art on behalf of the railworkers in the 1970s with a promise that the art works would not be put back on the market within 20 years to give them time to appreciate.

Sotheby's acted as advisers to the fund. Now, 13 years after the fund's initial investment, 100 lots of distinguished Old Master prints are to be auctioned at Sotheby's on June 29. They are expected to bring well over £1 million.

They include several rare Rembrandt etchings, his "Three Christs" estimated at £200,000-£300,000 and "St Jerome in an Italian

Landscape" at £100,000-£120,000, and five rare proofs for Goya's "Los Caprichos" series which could fetch more than £100,000.

Mr Michael Bosworth, a former trustee, speaking on behalf of the fund, said some 400 items had already been sold from the art portfolio over the last five years without any public announcement, some through auction and some privately. The June sale, however, was likely to prove the main determinant of whether the fund kept its art in the hope of further price appreciation or sold it.

The decision to invest in art was made in 1974 when inflation was out of hand and conventional investments were failing to maintain their value.

Reward offered after £2.5m paintings theft

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

Robert Noortman, a dealer in Old Masters, with galleries in London and Maastricht, The Netherlands, has lost nine paintings worth £2.5 million in a break-in.

The paintings had been sent from London to The Netherlands for a showing on Mr Noortman's stand at the Maastricht Antiques Fair which runs from March 7-15.

They included a landscape with a water mill by the Dutch master Meindert Hobbema valued for sale at £625,000, in addition to works by Renoir and Pissarro.

The paintings were hanging in the mezzanine in the Dutch gallery Mr Noortman owns in Maastricht's central square. On February 17 the cleaning

lady was the first to discover the loss.

During the night seven of the paintings had been taken from their frames which were left propped against the wall while two, the largest, had been cut from their stretchers. There was no sign of any damage to the building. The locks had not been forced and the alarm system, which has since been checked over twice, was apparently in running order.

The gallery said yesterday that it had no news of the pictures. A reward is being offered for their recovery. The Maastricht Fair is turning into one of the big art and antiques events of Europe. More British dealers exhibit there than at any other foreign fair. There will be 17 this year.

New Metropolitan Police chief

Anti-terror expert and 'good copper'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Mr Peter Imbert, who will become the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police on August 1, was described yesterday by one of his former commanders as a "good thinking copper" who will bring a keen, quick mind to the problems of controlling one of the world's biggest police forces.

Seen as a distinctly different character to Sir Kenneth Newman, Mr Imbert, aged 53, is a former Special Branch officer. Initially a career detective, he became an anti-terrorist expert.

As chief constable of the Thames Valley force, he agreed to give access to BBC television for the making of the series, *Police*, in 1980. The

series removed much of the mythology surrounding police work and through its coverage of a badly-managed rape case helped to alter police attitudes to victims and investigations.

Mr Imbert stood by his decision to allow access for the cameras, in spite of internal police criticism. His friends believe he will show the same openness and determination in running the Metropolitan force.

Sir Kenneth, an intensely private man, is a quiet figure in public with little small talk and a desire to get on with the business of police management, which fascinates him.

Mr Imbert is a more gregarious figure. Unlike Sir Kenneth, he has no degree or



Mr Peter Imbert: distinctly different to predecessor.

further education, but is said to assess situations quickly and effectively.

Mr Imbert has been an increasingly dominant figure at the Yard's weekly internal

policy meetings, and it is likely that he will continue Sir Kenneth's reorganization.

Born in Kent, Mr Imbert joined the Metropolitan Police in 1953, moving to the Special Branch. In the 1970s, with the rise of the Provisional IRA, he became a senior officer in the anti-terrorist squad. In 1975, he spent six days as one of two police negotiators in the Balcombe Street IRA siege.

The next year he became assistant chief constable of Surrey and then deputy chief constable. In 1979, he took command of Thames Valley.

In 1985, he was called back to London when Mr Albert Laugherne, the then deputy commissioner retired early because of ill health. At the time there was speculation he might become the heir apparent.

Unions serve writ over dock changes

By Sheila Gunn

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, was served a writ yesterday by workers making a final attempt to stop the Government handing over the naval dockyards to private management.

Trade union representatives 19,000 workers at Devonport and Rosyth are accusing Mr Younger of not complying with complex consultation requirements written into the Dockyard Services Act by Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that Mr Younger was seeking legal advice after receiving the writ, but he made it clear when he authorized the signatures to the seven-year contract to run Devonport dockyard this week that he was satisfied that he had complied with all his statutory duties.

The unions aim to prevent the running of the dockyards being transferred to Brown and Root at Devonport and Babcock Thorn at Rosyth on April 6.

Their main fear is that the new management will shed thousands of jobs to make the predicted £23 million savings in the maintenance and refitting of naval craft. But the Ministry of Defence complains of the unions' unwillingness to take part in consultations.

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No hopes of a quiet life for the BBC's calm Mr Checkland

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Senior BBC officials said yesterday they expect another senior management appointment to come after the selection of Mr Michael Checkland as director-general, to strengthen the corporation's editorial management.

Mr Checkland's appointment appeared to meet the corporation's need for a supreme manager, able to allocate resources and set strategic direction.

But the selection left open the question of who will provide Mr Checkland with programme and editorial advice.

Speculation immediately centred on Mr Brian Wenham as a likely deputy. It appeared that Mr David Dimbleby, who was rejected by the governors for the job of director-general, made it clear that he would not accept a position as second fiddle.

Yesterday, Mr Checkland acknowledged that he would want to select his own team, but said that no immediate changes were in store. Sitting under a portrait of Lord Reith in the council chamber of Broadcasting House, he sought to play down his image as a financial housekeeper.

"Let us try and get rid of a bit of the accountant stuff," he said. "I am a more rounded man than the stereotype would indicate."

Asked if he considered his selection to have been a compromise choice, Mr Checkland said he had expected to get the job and considered himself an "outstanding candidate".

Meeting the Press for the first time after his selection on Thursday night, he dismissed suggestions that lack of experience as a programmer would

Electricians end strike

An eight-week strike by 600 members of the electricians' union, IEEPTU, at the BBC was called off yesterday under a compromise agreement worked out in talks organized by the arbitration service, Acast.

No agreement had been reached on the union's 20 per cent pay claim but it said the BBC had agreed to iron out the anomalies that had led to some workers getting more than others.

The BBC said the agreement meant that the position of the electricians would be looked at in the current review of weekly-paid staff.

handicap him as the corporation's editor-in-chief. He said his experience in the past 10 years had been in "making programmes happen".

The director-general was not directly involved in making programmes, and when editorial decisions came to his desk, there was a well-established management system to assist him. "These are team efforts," he said.

Later, he left Broadcasting House for Stratford-upon-Avon, for a weekend strategy session with the governors and members of the board.

He reaffirmed his own vision of the BBC's future, as a production centre that does not seek an imperial role, and will not oppose competition or new choices for viewers and listeners.

Television broadcasting through the night was not a

serious priority. The BBC would maintain its existing local radio services, but examine whether to complete its planned network of stations.

The financial challenge for the BBC was to learn to live with its income linked to the rise in the retail price index. He said he was well aware of the political pressures likely to be put on the corporation, especially in an election year, and said his experience since 1985 as deputy director-general had equipped him to handle the challenges. "I am not expecting a quiet life," he said.

As an example of his style under pressure, Mr Checkland recalled that within 24 hours of his appointment as acting director-general last month, after the resignation of Mr Alasdair Milne, the police had raided the BBC's Glasgow headquarters.

He said his role was to "calm the place down and be involved in the robust defence of the BBC", including consultation with the chairman, Mr Marmaduke Hussey.

Mr Checkland also defended *EastEnders* against this week's attack from Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association. He said the serial was "about social realism. I have not got any problems with *EastEnders* at all."

Mr Checkland said he began his day with *Today* and ended it with *Newsnight*, dipping in to other programmes through the day. He enjoyed opera, theatre, compact discs and football. "Jasper Carrott and I are the only Birmingham City supporters left at the BBC," he said.

Leading article, page 9



Mr Checkland, under a portrait of Reith, discussing his new appointment yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Aids cases 'could rise to 18,000 in three years'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Britain could have more than 18,000 cases of Aids by 1990, four times more than the government estimates, experts predicted yesterday.

The rapid multiplication of cases in the next few years might not be significantly affected by the Government's public education campaign, Professor George Knox said.

Up to three-quarters of the victims of the disease could be expected to develop brain disorders that alter personality, a conference at the Institute of Psychiatry in London was told.

The figures, prepared by Professor Knox, professor of social medicine at Birmingham University, were presented to the conference by Professor Alisdair Geddes, the university's professor of infectious diseases.

The predictions calculate that there will be 1,440 Aids cases by the end of this year, compared with the 686 cases recorded a month ago.

There would be an accumulative total of 3,330 by the end of next year, 7,730 by the end of 1989, and 18,030 in 1990, according to the calculations.

The estimates are based on the rate of spread of Aids in

other countries, especially the United States.

Professor Geddes told the conference of health professionals: "It is vital to have some figures to work with when seeking money for Aids from health authorities."

Professor Knox said later that he was sceptical whether the predicted numbers could be reduced by government publicity campaigns.

Dr James Dilley, director of the Aids health project in San Francisco, and a leading expert in the neurological conditions associated with Aids, told the conference that between 35 and 75 per cent of cases involved brain disorders.

Professor Geddes was last night named a member of the new health education authority which is to take responsibility for public education on Aids.

The other new members are: Miss Carey Dennis, director of Tesco's products and consumer services department; Mrs Pat Marshall, director of nursing services at City and Hackney health authority; Dr Colin Waite and Mrs Kate Wood from the Schools Curriculum Development Committee. Moscow hotline, page 7

Portfolio Gold Winnings will buy golf clubs

The sole winner of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Gold prize was Mr Terry Screeton, aged 33, a computer programmer at Leeds University.

"I really was quite pleased. I must say I had not expected to be the only winner and get the full £4,000," Mr Screeton, who is a bachelor and lives at St Michael's Road, Leeds, said.

"I shall probably buy some new golf clubs and take some driving lessons - both sorts, I cannot drive a car yet," he said, adding that he might think about getting a car later.

Mr Screeton, who has read *The Times* since he was at school plans to carry on playing Portfolio Gold.

"Oh yes, of course, I will not stop now I have won," he said. Readers wishing to play Portfolio Gold can obtain a card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times
PO Box 40
Blackburn
BB1 6AJ

Channon friend loses jail plea

Rose Johnston, the former Oxford undergraduate who supplied Miss Olivia Channon, daughter of the Secretary of Trade and Industry, with heroin, failed yesterday in an appeal for freedom from a nine-month jail sentence.

Johnston, aged 23, who collected heroin for Miss Channon from a London supplier, was told by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, that

the normal minimum sentence for heroin trafficking was three years.

The judge, in the Court of Appeal, also dismissed an appeal by Sian Griffiths, aged 21, a former model, who supplied her boyfriend with heroin against her nine-month sentence.

Miss Channon died from a drink and drugs overdose.

Lord Lane said the judge who sentenced both women

had fully reflected everything in their favour. "These cases illustrate, if any illustration is required, the result of dabbling with dangerous drugs, particularly heroin," Lord Lane said.

"Those who do so no doubt think themselves very sophisticated and daring. But drug-taking leads to death and, what is sometimes worse, degradation and disruption of both family and personality."

Star 'was jealous of his friend'

The pop stars, Boy George and Marilyn, were violently jealous of each other because Boy George wanted Marilyn's good looks and Marilyn wanted his friend's wealth and fame, it was claimed in court yesterday.

Diane Feiner, who is accused of supplying Boy George with drugs, told Knightsbridge Crown Court in London that Marilyn (real name Peter Robinson) and Boy George would take drugs and then have furious arguments.

Miss Feiner, aged 35, said: "They were close friends from the age of about 13 or 14. They were both flamboyant characters. They had a love hate relationship and there was also a lot of jealousy."

"George wanted to look like Marilyn and Marilyn wanted George's money, his riches and fame."

Miss Feiner described a holiday in New York last year when Boy George and Marilyn took drugs.

She said: "They were taking cocaine continuously and eating vast amounts of junk food, sweets and ice cream, and making themselves very sick."

"George bought 28 pints of ice cream and was eating enormous ice cream cocktails." She never saw George suffering drug withdrawal symptoms but she said: "I saw him very paranoid."

"He had taken cocaine and Marilyn had taken it as well. They were paranoid about everything." During the New York trip a girl, whom Miss Feiner thought was from the CBS record company, delivered drugs in a football sock.

Miss Feiner claimed that it was the singer's housekeeper, Miss Bonnie Lippie who got drugs for Boy George in New York.

Miss Feiner told the court that Miss Lippie, who was totally besotted with Boy George, took £2,000 to £3,000 to New York to pay for his drugs.

Miss Feiner and the man with whom she lives, Steven Luben, aged 36, of Westbourne Terrace, Paddington, west London, deny conspiracy to supply drugs to Boy George and others.

The trial continues on Monday.

Six-year sentence for 1965 killing

By Craig Seton

A man who killed his wife 21 years ago was acquitted of her murder yesterday but found guilty of manslaughter and jailed for six years.

Bryn Masterman, a prison officer aged 47, of West Bridgford, Nottingham, was exposed as a killer by his second wife, Selina. He sobbed and almost broke down at Nottingham Crown Court when the jury found him not guilty of murdering his first wife, Janet, in 1965.

He whispered "thank you" as the jury returned its majority verdict of guilty of manslaughter. It had spent five hours and 32 minutes reaching its decision.

Selina Masterman, aged 51, of Lincoln, said last night after the verdict: "I am going to divorce him. It is the only way to get him out of my mind."

She had told the court that Masterman had bragged that he had committed the "perfect murder" when he hit his first wife twice with a stool and then pushed her downstairs. She trapped Masterman into a confession at their home and it was tape recorded by police who arrested him immediately afterwards.

Masterman's son by his first wife, Lee, broke down in court when his father was acquitted of murder. He said outside the court: "My father did not kill my mother. It was an accident

and I can forgive that. I am going to stand by him."

After Masterman was found guilty of manslaughter, Mr Igor Judge, QC, for the defence, said: "He has lived his life with the appalling threat of exposure to the world and to his adored son. In one sense he has served a life sentence in prison in his own mind, trapped by his own fears."

But Mr Justice Boreham said the case of manslaughter was one of the worst.

He said: "I know it happened 22 years ago but there is no doubt in my mind it was to fulfill your own selfish, sexual desires and a young woman died. I accept it was not murder, it was manslaughter, but at your own hand."

The judge said the jury had brought in a merciful verdict.

Masterman had told the jury he had hit his first wife with a heavy stool when they had a furious argument in bed over his passionate affair with Selina. He said that after hitting his wife he followed her to the stairs and grabbed her by her nightdress. His wife had hit him on the nose and as a reflex he pushed her hard and she "flew" downstairs and cracked her head on the floor.

For three days Masterman kept a vigil by his wife's bed but she did not recover consciousness. An inquest returned a verdict of accidental death.

Gunman's girl friend on robbery charge

A woman and two men who appeared before Teesside magistrates yesterday on armed robbery charges linked with the dead gunman, David Gricewith, were remanded in custody.

Adrianne Robinson, aged 36, of Northallerton, North Yorkshire, the girl friend of Gricewith who died from a gunshot wound received during his capture in Stockton-on-Tees 16 days ago, was remanded overnight.

Malcolm Tyerman, aged 50, from Sessay, Thirsk, and Peter Sanderson, aged 41, of Fulford, York, were remanded until Monday.

Miss Robinson and Mr Tyerman are charged with the attempted robbery of a post office van near Middlesbrough last August.

Mr Tyerman and Mr Sanderson are accused of robbing a bank at Heslington, North Yorkshire, of £3,400 in 1977. Mr Sanderson is separately charged with a £223,000 robbery at the Kirsall Road post office, Leeds, in 1983. Mr Tyerman is also charged with a £1,700 robbery in York in 1976.

Terence Gibb-Kirk, aged 48, and Frederick Willis, aged 49, both from York, were released on bail on firearms charges until March 19.

Astronomers search for black hole

By Robert Matthews

British astronomers are taking part in an international effort to make the first observations of the birth of a black hole.

This comes after the discovery earlier this week of an explosion of a blue "supernova" star 20 times larger than our sun, 165,000 light years away in a galaxy near by.

The explosion, called a supernova, is by far the most violent event witnessed by scientists this century.

The star, which was previously invisible from earth, has now left debris which is visible to the naked eye from the southern hemisphere.

Astronomers believe that in the centre of the debris may lurk a black hole, an object predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity to have a gravitational field so strong that not even light can escape from it.

According to Dr Jasper Wall, head of the astrophysics department at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, a black hole could be formed almost straight after the explosion of the dying star. It would reveal its presence by heating the material around itself to so high a temperature that it starts to give out X-rays.

A satellite carrying X-ray detection equipment built at Leicester University and the

Rutherford Appleton laboratory, near Oxford, was put into orbit three weeks ago and its normal testing programme has been abandoned to observe the aftermath of the supernova.

The last supernova visible to the naked eye occurred in 1604, before scientists had access even to primitive telescopes. They are triggered when very large stars run out of nuclear fuel and start to collapse.

New nuclear reactions begin within the star which blow it apart, leaving an extremely dense object at the centre, a few tens of kilometres across.

FEBRUARY

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FRIDAY

FEBRUARY

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SATURDAY

MARCH

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MARCH

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MONDAY

MARCH

3

TUESDAY

MARCH

4

WEDNESDAY

10.00 a.m.

Scandinavian Bank Group Offer

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY BUT YOU STILL HAVE FOUR DAYS IN WHICH TO APPLY.

Scandinavian Bank Group plc is making available a number of shares to the public. The Daily Telegraph and The Financial Times of Thursday February 26th published the prospectus. If you missed this, you may like to know that an application form will be published tomorrow in *The Sunday Times*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, and *The Observer*.

The prospectus is also available from the following locations:

- LONDON:** Scandinavian Bank Group plc, Scandinavian House, 2-6 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6XX
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, New Issue Department, 72 London Wall, London EC2M 5NL
Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues, P.O. Box 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
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Unknown candidate who rapidly developed the style of a 'political super-nanny'

Victory for high-tech and US know-how

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Somebody had pinned a card saying "Alec McGivvan - workaholic mastermind" on the door of the scruffy office at the back of the former car showrooms, appropriately signboarded Triumph, which formed the Alliance headquarters in Greenwich.

If Greenwich was a triumph for Rosie Barnes it was a triumph, too, for Mr McGivvan, aged 33, the national organizer and backroom genius who directed the campaign.

The by-election victory was no mere fluke. It was a meticulously planned operation based on sophisticated "targeting" of voters to a degree never before attempted in Britain.

Mr McGivvan and Dick Newby, the SDP's national secretary, have been working closely with the Washington firm of Matt Reese Associates, who guided President John F. Kennedy in his primary contests.

Based on their advice the campaign in Greenwich had three main aspects: individual targeting of voters, intensive use of computers and the early establishment of themes which were relentlessly pursued throughout.

The key to the strategy was

GREENWICH

R S Barnes (SDP/All)	18,287
D F Wood (Lab)	11,676
J G Amcliffe (C)	3,852
G J E Ball (Green Pky)	264
M G Hardeo (Rainbow)	124
I B Dell (Brit Nat)	116
J A Pearce (NF)	108
N Marshall (Rev Comm)	91
SDP/All majority	6,611
Total vote 34,813	Turnout 68.4%

Share of the vote	1983
Alliance	52.9
Labour	33.6
Conservative	11.1

1983-84 G Barnett (Lab) 13,361; A Rote (C) 12,150; T Ford (SDP/All) 8,783; J Dell (BNP) 259; R Malone (Fellowship) 242; Miss F Hook (Comm) 149. Lab majority: 1,211 (5.5%)

treating voters as individuals. As Mr McGivvan put it: "It's no use talking to pensioners about the provision of nursery schooling."

The SDP campaigners absorbed two lessons, two slogans even, from the Americans. The first was "Lots isn't a number". The second is that "Churning things out isn't necessarily communicating."

From early days an intensive canvass was mounted, feeding back detailed information on the voters. Canvass cards were fed daily into a computer system with termi-

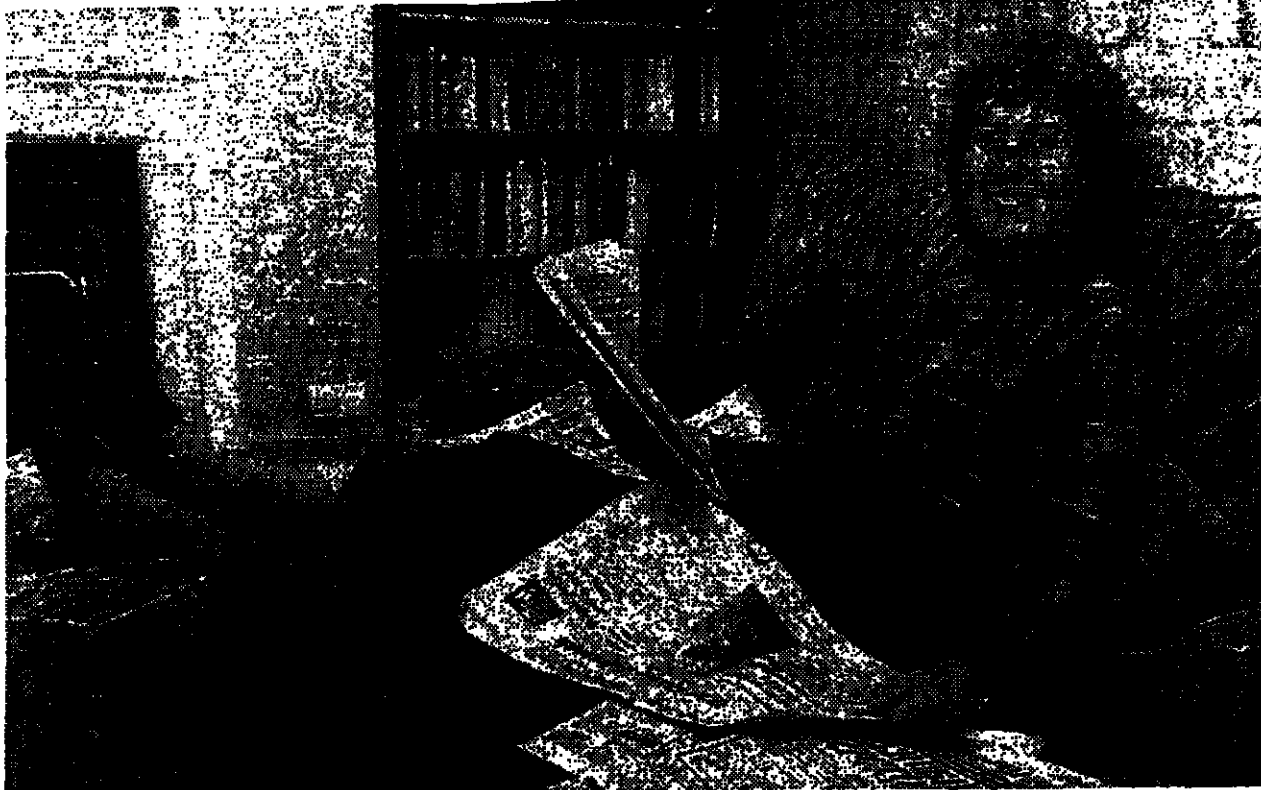
nals in seven of the 10 polling districts.

Using these details, laser-printed letters, put together paragraph by paragraph to reflect an individual voter's likely interests, were prepared and sent out with individual labels, making the voter feel that the Alliance cared for his personal interests.

A key element was the compilation of lists of opinion-formers and leaders, from doctors to the proprietors of takeaway food parlours. Carefully tailored letters were sent to each of these groups, including police, teachers, students, publicans, vicars and council tenants with the right to buy, reflecting Alliance policies in areas of interest to them.

"We were talking to people on issues that mattered to them, not just on the issues that matter to political parties", Mr McGivvan said.

Letters about postal votes, even the leaflets charting the rise in the Alliance vote measured by opinion polls, were varied according to the known political preferences of the recipient. Thus copies of an evening paper headline talking of "Alarm bells for Labour" went out to Tory supporters. Another ver-



Mrs Rosie Barnes relaxing yesterday after making the headlines with her victory in the Greenwich by-election campaign.

CHANGE IN PARTY VOTING SHARES

Change in share of the vote at by-elections since 1983

Date	By-election	Con	Lab	Alls	Result
1979-83	Parliament	-19.4	-37.5	+50.9	All Gain
24.2.83	Barnsley	-8.5	-6.0	+14.3	Lab Hold
1983-86	Parliament	-28.7	-5.9	+16.7	Con hold
01.3.84	Pewit & Borden	-17.3	-1.6	+15.2	Lab hold
03.5.84	Surrey SW	-10.4	-1.5	+11.3	Con hold
03.5.84	Stafford	-10.8	+3.7	+7.1	Con hold
03.5.84	Cymon Valley	-6.8	+2.8	-0.7	Lab hold
14.8.84	Portsmouth S	-15.7	+3.9	+12.2	SDP gain
13.12.84	Southgate	-8.5	-5.9	+12.2	Con hold
04.7.85	Brescon & Radnor	-20.5	+9.3	+11.4	Lab gain
6.12.85	Tyne Bridge	-14.2	+1.3	+11.4	Lab hold
10.4.86	Fulham	-11.3	+10.4	+0.6	Lab gain
08.5.86	Ryedale	-17.9	-1.9	+19.8	Lab gain
08.5.86	Derbyshire West	-16.3	+2.7	+12.3	Con hold
17.7.86	Newcastle u Lyme	-17.4	-1.2	+17.7	Lab hold
13.11.86	Knowsley N	-13.8	-8.2	+19.8	Lab hold
26.2.87	Greenwich	-23.7	-4.4	+27.8	SDP gain

the tactical vote. "It was obvious we had to play this card for all it was worth", Mr McGivvan said. "But it was not much use until we had established ourselves in second place."

So from the start they pushed the line that the Conservatives had never won Greenwich in 50 years and could not win, adding "but you don't want a left-wing member of Parliament. And the Alliance not only wants to

win but CAN win".

The Alliance rarely had a workforce of below 100 on the streets and often it was up to 150. As the campaign reached its peak the computer operation became ever more vital.

On election day the computers were processing lists all day of those who had still not voted and were worth "knocking up". Most were knocked up four to five times, some as many as eight times.

Leading article, page 9

Labour condemns impact of polls

By Our Political Editor

Labour's defence of its disastrous defeat in Greenwich concentrates on what it calls the unparalleled campaign of vilification of its left-wing candidate Dairde Wood, and the role played by the opinion polls.

There was a massive tactical vote by Conservatives switching to the SDP to keep out the Labour Party. It is only possible to mobilize such tactical support when one party emerges clearly as the second favourite and as the best hope of defeating the party of particular voter likes least.

Opinion polls are the only effective means of identifying the second-place candidate and they achieve considerable prominence in contests such as that in Greenwich.

Nine polls were published during the Greenwich contest, starting with that by the Harris Research Centre in the first week in January which showed Labour with 60 per cent of the vote, the Conservatives in second place with 25, and the Alliance with 15.

Alliance win is boost for Truro Liberals

Liberals campaigning at the Truro by-election in Cornwall were jubilant yesterday after the Alliance victory at Greenwich.

Mr Geraint Howells, leader of the Welsh Liberal Party, said: "We are now on our way for at least a share in government."

Mr Howells was in Cornwall to support the campaign of Mr Matthew Taylor who, at the age of 24, hopes to become Britain's youngest MP after the by-election on March 12. The poll was caused by the death of Mr David Penhaligon.

Call for openness in injury claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Routine disclosure of reports by medical experts in all personal injury cases is called for in a consultation paper just issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

It has been the practice to withhold reports in claims for personal injury arising from medical negligence but in a recent Court of Appeal hearing of a case against Essex Area Health Authority, the judges recommended disclosure should become the norm.

Lord Justice Mustill said: "It seems wrong that in this area of the law, more than in any other, this kind of forensic blind-man's bluff should continue."

The paper says disclosure would mean that a party in the case will not be taken by surprise at the trial, make settlements easier and possibly lead to weak cases being dropped. It will also save costs and assist the judge at trials.

In the Court of Appeal case the judges said that failure to have a full exchange of reports could mean the parties misunderstood what the case was about.

Lord Justice Mustill said: "I believe that practitioners do their clients and the interests of justice no service by continuing to pursue this policy of concealment."

Against disclosure it is ar-

Novice to 'natural' in one campaign

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Rosie Barnes, the Greenwich victor, proved a dream candidate. To the delight of Dr David Owen, she is the first of the generation of "political virgins", those who had not been members of any political party before the SDP's formation in 1981, to come all the way through to a seat in Parliament.

What particularly pleases the Alliance leaders about her victory as the first SDP candidate to take a seat from Labour is that Mrs Barnes, who becomes the party's only woman MP, is the sort of person who used to join the Labour Party.

She was brought up in Nottinghamshire in a working class home. An upwardly mobile "achiever", in the current psephological jargon, who epitomizes the classlessness to which the SDP aspires, she went to Birmingham University.

She has lived in Greenwich for 16 years. A mother of three, her husband, Graham (a former agent to the SDP MP, John Cartwright), is a local councillor and she contested the Woolwich Inner London Education Authority seat last year. Her £20,000-a-year earnings as a freelance market researcher take the family into the £50,000-a-year class.

SDP campaigners have been calling her the best by-election candidate they have ever known. With an open, honest style to match her milkmaid complexion, the energetic Mrs Barnes has proved a natural on the doorsteps.

She has a knack of communication which many more mature politicians would envy, even if she seems a little too certain - everything can be solved with a brisk dose of moderate common sense taken twice a day.

She began the campaign being carefully coached by her minder, Mr Cartwright, and reaching nervously for her notes. She went painstakingly through rehearsals for a television debate with her fellow candidates, with Roger Liddle, the unsuccessful SDP candidate in Fulham, playing the Labour candidate to test her.

By the end of the campaign Mrs Barnes was minding the minders with the bossy "smack your bottom and send you to bed" style of a political super-nanny. At the final rally Dr Owen and Mr Steel were dispatched back to their seats while she handled all the questions spontaneously.

Just how far and how fast she progressed was shown at her champagne victory celebration yesterday when somebody remarked that it was being held in a room used by the Saints and Sinners Club. Would she be saint or sinner at Westminster? she was asked.

Without pause for thought, back came the reply: "I shall be working on the side of the saints, in the interests of the sinners". Watch out Westminster, there is a natural on the way.

Terrorist contest is abandoned in schools

A competition inviting 40,000 children to imagine they were terrorists seeking a new timing device for bombs has been withdrawn.

The contest instructions to pupils aged between 12 and 14 at 46 comprehensive schools in Co Durham were circulated without going through the normal education authority vetting process. When education chiefs found out, it was dropped.

Mr John Crossland, the county science adviser, set the problem, jointly sponsored by the local Engineering Council and the Science and Technology Regional Organization.

Mr Derek Sowell, education director, said pupils had been asked to investigate the reaction of hydrochloric acid on another material.

Teachers and advisers try to make problems real, but this, unfortunately, was made a little too real and we have withdrawn it. To make international terrorism the setting for the experiment was a bit judicious, he said.

UDR soldier on raid charge

A soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) was among four men charged at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday concerning a "loyalist" raid in which 170 guns were stolen from one of the regiment's barracks.

Lance-Corporal Samuel Ferris, aged 20, of Coleraine, Co Londonderry, and Dennis McClean, aged 22, unemployed, of Belfast, were charged with robbing members of the UDR of self-loading rifles, pistols, ammunition and other military equipment last Sunday.

Two others, Keith McClelland, aged 22, and Robert Clyde, aged 35, both of Coleraine, were accused of conspiring to rob members of the UDR between September 1986 and February 22, 1987. All four were remanded in custody for one week.

Farmer loses land battle

A final attempt to save Mr Eric Stanhope, a Cheshire farmer, from eviction from his county council smallholding has failed after councillors stood by their decision to order him off the farm he has worked for 20 years.

Mr David Norbury, for the council, said yesterday it would proceed with its reorganization of smallholdings, which means that Mr Stanhope, aged 45, cannot continue to run the 38-acre Park House farm at Gawsforth, near Macclesfield.

Cadbury loses flake case

An attempt by Cadbury Ltd to stop sales of a rival West German chocolate flake bar on British ice-cream cones failed in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Falconer ruled that Cadbury had no case against Ulmer GmbH for trade-mark infringement and passing-off. Last summer Ulmer captured about 5 per cent of the UK ice-cream market, selling about six million of its rival flaky bars. Cadbury was given leave to appeal.

Remand over gun charge

A man appeared at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday on firearm and conspiracy charges.

Paul Alan Guest, aged 41, of Windsor Drive, Moor Lane, Wigginton, York, was remanded in police custody for three days.

He is charged with conspiring to commit an armed robbery in Leeds between September 1 and October 31, 1984, and possessing a firearm with intent on October 31, 1984.

Fireman wins fall damages

A former fire brigade station officer, Mr Rodney Mills, whose career ended after an accident at work, was awarded £67,047 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Mills, aged 42, who now lives in Australia, slipped down stairs and injured his back at the Southwark training centre, south-east London, in January 1984. Mr Justice Patten, announcing the award, said the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority was 100 per cent liable.

Printer fined over demo

A dismissed printer who threw a brick at a News International lorry during a demonstration at Wapping was fined £50 yesterday at Thames Magistrates' Court.

Edward Bryant, aged 50, of Herbert Road, Hornchurch, was convicted of using threatening behaviour on December 6.



The new member of Parliament for Greenwich yesterday with the winning campaign team (from left): John Cartwright, Tom McNally, Frank Leavers and Alec McGivvan.

February 27 1987

PARLIAMENT

Call for training incentives

TECHNOLOGY

If technology and above all software lived up to many of its promises, the way people led their lives and run their businesses would be changed even more dramatically than in the last 10 years, Mr Michael Marshall (Arundel, C) said at the start of a debate on information technology.

A survey by the National Computing Centre had shown that some 60 per cent of companies in information technology did not carry out training but relied instead on poaching from the 40 per cent which did.

One of the best ways to resolve that would be through tax incentives. The chance to provide training at tax-deductible expense would help to bridge the skills gap and would genuinely offer opportunities for the unemployed.

MPs should have more "hands-on" experience with computers. They might then avoid doing what he had done in the past, namely to erase accidentally whole chapters of a book he was writing.

Mr Jeremy Bury, Opposition spokesman on science and technology, said that the British Library had recently been forced to sell the compact-disc rights to its entire catalogue to an American firm simply to finance the digitizing of records in time for its move.

Essential information technology programmes had not had their funding renewed. There was an overall lack of Government strategy and it had neglected science and technology.

The Government was in danger of destroying in a decade the scientific tradition built up over centuries.

Mr Gregory Knight (Derby North, C) said that there was some consternation among British compact-disc manufacturers over digital audio tape. This had been developed by the Japanese and had the advantage over compact disc in that users were able to record on it.

It did not argue well if the manufacturers could not face the challenge of competition. Calls for restrictions on the Japanese system should be resisted.

Mr Michael Howard, Under Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry, said that information technology was vitally important to the performance and competitiveness of industry and commerce and ultimately to the prosperity of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Deer Bill
The Deer Bill, which enables farmed deer to be killed during the close season, was given an unopposed second reading.

Rules on drinking with hotel meals relaxed

ALCOHOL

A Bill to enable non-residents to consume drink with their meals in hotel restaurants after 3pm - the Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Bill - passed all its Commons stages without debate.

The Bill passed every stage in spite of the fact that Mr Harold Walker, Deputy Speaker, said that although he had no power to stop it, the Speaker disapproved of committee stage of Bills being taken without notice immediately after second reading.

Bills are normally examined in detail at committee stage. The decisions were taken within a space of two minutes, after a day in which much of the Commons time had been devoted to a general discussion on licensing reform and the problems of alcohol excess.

The Bill has already been through the House of Lords and now awaits Royal Assent.

Earlier, MPs debated a motion calling for early legislation to reform licensing laws in England and Wales, expressing concern over the excess consumption of alcohol and calling for more education and research.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the Government accepted the call for early reform, but with careful study of what type of reform would be most appropriate. There should be no free-for-all.

Opening the debate, Mr Robert Banks (Harrowgate, C) said that the reform of licensing laws in England and Wales was long overdue.

There was a link between alcohol and crime. For instance, the loutish behaviour of football fans could often be directly attributed to too much drink.

In the United States breathalysers were built into some makes of car and if a driver's breath sample showed he was over the limit the car would not function. There was no reason why drivers in Britain should not have their own breathalysers to determine whether they were fit to drive.

An inter-departmental working group should be set up to coordinate policies relating to alcohol and its job should be to inform, protect and care. More funds should also be made available.

It was a ridiculous anomaly that hotel residents could eat and drink in hotel restaurants at any hour but local people coming to the restaurant could not drink with their meals after 3pm. He supported the Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Bill. It would not lead to bouts of afternoon drunkenness. It was a most reasonable and harmless Bill.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that, as the licensing law had been steadily

the family business, was this family fiasco, Dora.

But this was not a confession of yet another Tory sex scandal. Dora stood for the Defence of the Realm Act, first introduced to curtail the over-enthusiasm of munitions workers during the First World War, and the draconian restrictions imposed on licensing hours had been relaxed only slightly since then.

"It is time that Dora's rugged and raddled body was finally laid to rest."

Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that he was not in favour of piecemeal legislation unless it followed a broad approach and a determination to tackle the problem in all areas.

He was interested in the Bill on drinking in restaurants, but warned against easy availability of alcohol all day as in France, where people drank cognac with coffee early in the morning.

They should think very hard about the proposal to establish an advisory council on alcohol policy, covering the whole range of Government departments and other bodies concerned with alcohol in all its aspects.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said that all parts of the trade seem to agree that the time had come for change. The public recognized the absurdities in the present law.

In Scotland, where it was possible for public houses to remain open throughout the day and until late in the evening, there had been a dramatic fall in drinking offences. While drinking offences had gone up, they had not done so nearly as fast as such offences had in England and Wales.

"The Government is certainly not advocating a free-for-all. Given the continuing problem of alcohol abuse and the need to protect the public, we believe that adequate and effective controls of licensed outlets should be maintained."

"We find no difficulty at all in accepting that part of the motion which calls for the early introduction of legislation to reform the present licensing laws, but we must study carefully what type of reform would be most appropriate."

He believed that reform was necessary. Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) said that restricting pub hours was a clumsy way of trying to reduce alcohol abuse.

Mr Keith Best (Ynys Môn, C) said that detoxification centres ought to be looked at very carefully by the Home Office.

A study undertaken last year by Brighton police showed that 60 per cent of all those arrested had imbibed alcohol within four hours of their arrest.

She had been thrust upon them in 1916, had had a face lift in 1921 and a further round of plastic surgery in 1964. Dora was now pretty ragged around the edges but reports of her imminent demise were, he feared, much exaggerated and premature. His certain request to his son, should he follow in

Arms to Iran: European reaction echoes American disillusion with the President

Reagan under heavy fire from all sides

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Puzzled and saddened by the Iranian scandal, America was relieved yesterday that no serious new revelations emerged in the Tower Commission's comprehensive review and that President Reagan has been cleared of any personal wrongdoing.

But many people have been left aghast at the blunt revelations of the President's inattention to what was going on, of his inability to remember whether or not he authorized the first arms shipment, and his apparent insouciance as the scandal unfolded.

Newspapers around the country were harshly critical of his leadership. *The Washington Post* said yesterday that it was "chilling" to see a

President, so utterly given over to sentiment over the hostages, so incurious and uncritical about the events unfolding around him and so vulnerable to the lapses of judgment of those in whom he had put his trust.

"His was an Administration in the back seat of a car rolling down a hill with no one at the wheel," *The New York Times* said. Mr Reagan showed a "disastrous lack of attention, lack of supervision, lack of concern, lack of leadership." He failed to supervise national security policy, the most sensitive function of his Government. "Will he now, at last, understand his own fault, admit it, and then act decisively to correct it?" the paper asked.

Most congressional leaders echoed such sentiments, warning Mr Reagan that he could

not escape responsibility for the "colossal blunders" revealed in the report, and urging him to take immediate action to restore confidence.

Senator Robert Dole, the Republican Senate minority leader, said Mr Reagan did not get to grips with what was happening at the National Security Council (NSC).

Representative Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, said: "Americans came to believe he was larger than life. He isn't. He's a human being. He blew it."

Democrats were predictably harsher, and disputed the Tower Commission's contention that the Iran affair was simply an aberration. Senator Robert Byrd, the majority leader, said: "The knee-jerk militaristic reaction that clearly has characterized this Administration is the central

feature of its approach to the world."

Senator Sam Nunn said Mr Reagan did not make the NSC system work. "His decision-making process was flawed, and out of that came a flawed policy."

Democratic presidential aspirants emphasized Mr Reagan's failure to control foreign policy. Former Senator Gary Hart said vital US interests had been compromised by officials who did not respect the law and a President sadly detached from the facts. The scandal was caused by "ideologies on a binge."

The Democrats questioned Mr Reagan's ability to recover and were unusually outspoken in criticizing him personally. "For too long, on too many vital issues in foreign policy and national defence, we have had a commander-in-chief

who has been Awol," Senator Edward Kennedy said.

● JERUSALEM: Israel angrily denied yesterday that Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, had ever offered to supply "instructors" to the Contra rebels, as a memorandum from Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North attached to the Tower Commission's report claimed (Ian Murray writes).

"The allegation is totally groundless," the Defence Ministry said. "On the contrary, it was Colonel North who asked for such help and was refused by the Defence Minister."

● BONN: The West German Government is pressing Washington for details of a delivery of 500 anti-aircraft missiles to Iran which the Tower Commission said was made via a US air base in

Germany (John England writes).

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Washington had not informed Bonn about the shipment, reported to have been made through the Ramstein air base in south-west Germany.

German political commentators forecast the removal of Mr Donald Regan after the report but disagreed on whether other people should go (Reuter reports).

● ROME: Italian newspapers conclude that it is now almost impossible for President Reagan to regain his former standing and popularity (Reuter reports).

La Stampa said Mr Reagan was "morally absolved, politically condemned," adding: "It is almost impossible for him to recover his image."

Protest to Kabul over air raids

Islamabad — The Pakistani Government, in a statement issued yesterday, accused the Kabul regime of deliberately jeopardizing the prospects of the United Nations-sponsored Geneva talks on Afghanistan by launching air attacks on Thursday on Pakistani border villages in which at least 40 people were killed and 200 wounded. It was the worst air raid by the Afghan Air Force on Pakistani territory since the beginning of the Afghan civil war (Hasan Akhtar writes).

A government statement said this was a barbaric and wanton attack on innocent civilians and warned Kabul of the consequences of the air raids, saying that Pakistan reserved the right of a suitable riposte.

Cheesed off by tax Attackers jailed

Zurich (AP) — If you think your taxes are high, consider the case of a Swiss pensioner, Mr Jean Zatter, and his wife.

The couple, who live on 2,000 Swiss francs (£243) a month, recently received a tax bill for more than 28 million francs (£11.7 million). *Black* reported yesterday.

The bill was the fault of a tax office employee who mistakenly entered Mr Zatter's nine-digit social security number in the space reserved for income on a tax form, giving a bill of 120 million francs.

Johannesburg — Seven black youths, whose hands were blown off by grenades they used in attempted attacks on the homes of councillors and policemen, were each sentenced by Pretoria's Supreme Court to 16 months in jail yesterday after a six-month trial (Ray Kennedy writes).

Three other blacks were killed in the attacks carried out in Duderstadt, south-east of Johannesburg, when their grenades exploded prematurely. The sentence against one, Hosea Lengosane, aged 20, was suspended for three years.

Short held to a draw

Reykjavik (AP) — The winning streak of Nigel Short, the British grandmaster, in the Reykjavik international chess tournament failed him for the first time when Lajos Portisch of Hungary forced him to a draw in the seventh round. But Short, who had won all his six previous games, kept his lead in the 11-round contest with 6.5 points.

Portisch, playing white on Thursday, put up a strong challenge and Short, playing the "stone fence" variant of the Hungarian Defence, found himself under pressure. Portisch offered a draw after 21 moves and three hours.

Portisch, Jan Timman (The Netherlands), who drew with Helgi Olafsson of Iceland, and Mikhail Tal (Soviet Union), who beat Viktor Korchnoi, are in joint second place with 4.5.

Thailand threat Mother cleared

Bangkok (Reuter) — Thailand threatened yesterday to tighten restrictions on 90,000 Laotian and Vietnamese refugees in an apparent attempt to pressure Western countries to accept more for resettlement.

The National Security Council said it was considering imposing a ban on resettlement abroad, and on training programmes in refugee camps.

Los Angeles — A Californian woman, charged with contributing to the death of her baby by ignoring a doctor's orders to stop using drugs during pregnancy, cannot be charged with a crime, according to a ruling by a San Diego judge (Ivor Davis writes).

Judge E. Mac Amos said the district attorney erred in evoking a child support law to prosecute Mrs Pamela Rae Stewart, aged 28.

Discord at the opera

Vienna (Reuter) — Police arrested 40 demonstrators after an anti-nuclear protest outside the Opera House during the annual ball, a main social event. Police used truncheons to disperse 500 people protesting against the presence of the Bavarian Prime Minister and plans for a Bavarian nuclear reprocessing plant after the protesters fired tear gas.

Wise men bearing the rare gift of statesmanship

As America and much of the world watched the high drama of the Tower Commission presiding, in sober and devastating clarity, its report on the comprehensive breakdown of America's Government, one impression struck viewers and commentators alike: here were statesmen speaking.

The former senator, Mr John Tower, gave one of the most impressive performances of his long career in public office: polite, reflective, objective, unhesitating and unsparringly blunt.

Mr Edmund Muskie, though Secretary of State for only a brief interlude, brought to his incisive summary of what went wrong a precision that drew on what seemed years of experience.

General Brent Scowcroft, low-key, sombre, careful, gave perhaps the most deadly analysis of all. He had been a National Security Adviser, and his professionalism was affronted by the frantic floundering of men beyond their depth. He was almost openly contemptuous of Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and his conspiratorial way of running the National Security Council.

Washington View
By Michael Binyon

Mr Tower, whose diminutive stature belies his intellectual standing, is a Texan so hardline on arms control that many were aghast when President Reagan chose him, on retirement from the Senate, to be an arms negotiator in Geneva.

But perhaps it was this very job, which he held for a mere year, that tempered his strong ideological convictions with the reality of government and prepared him for the bitter assignment of examining, harshly and dispassionately, the management style of the President to whom he had been so loyal.

Mr Muskie, also a long-term senator from Maine, was famous for his temper, and for the celebrated outburst in the snow when his 1972 quest for the Presidency collapsed amid tears. But the political centrist, son of an immigrant Polish tailor, has remained a popular figure in the Democratic Party.

General Scowcroft, a West Point graduate who has taught Russian and served as a military attaché, gained a reputation as President Ford's National Security Adviser, and is regarded as one of the most competent and knowledgeable men to have held that office. His quiet manner and preference for substance over style has made him an almost permanent fixture since then on presidential transition committees.

The three are quintessential American statesmen — high-minded, patriotic, principled, and aloof from the public glitter of office. But where are such people nowadays? Certainly not in the White House. Serving the President and the nation — either as an adviser, diplomat or policy-maker — used to be an honour, a calling which attracted fine minds

finely educated. This is a far cry from the Michael Deavers of the White House, the former aide who has just been indicted, or the Oliver Norths, who simply ran amok in "the damndest operation I have ever seen", to use his phrase.

The old professionals were inevitably from the patrician class, East Coast, Europe-oriented, pragmatic liberals. They were the Establishment. And, of course, they were respected as such. Not since President Kennedy have they dominated government. President Johnson was in awe of them, Mr Nixon resented them, President Carter ran against them and wanted a fresh broom. But it was with the "Reagan revolution" that the last vestiges were swept away, as Californians, westward-looking, ideological and fervent, took over in Washington and filled the bureaucracy.

But among many, there were fatal flaws. They were people with little sense of history or diplomacy (the hapless Judge Clark did not know the name of the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe or the members of NATO) drawn from a circle of rich businessmen and Californian Republicans, they were inexperienced in arguing out issues, in manoeuvring among conflicting forces and opinions. For them the "quick fix" was more attractive, especially if it played well on television. They were, and many in the White House still are, inordinately concerned with public perception and popularity, with a media-fanned atmosphere of ebullient success.

But those that govern by the media perish in the media. When things did not work out well, leaks began to reveal the shallowness of thinking, and damaging revelations undermined the cultivated image. Many Reagan appointees were accused of questionable ethics, some were indicted. Uncomfortable viewpoints that clashed with the prevailing "can do" atmosphere were squeezed out. Loyalty became the most important quality of White House service, and an obsession with secrecy grew.

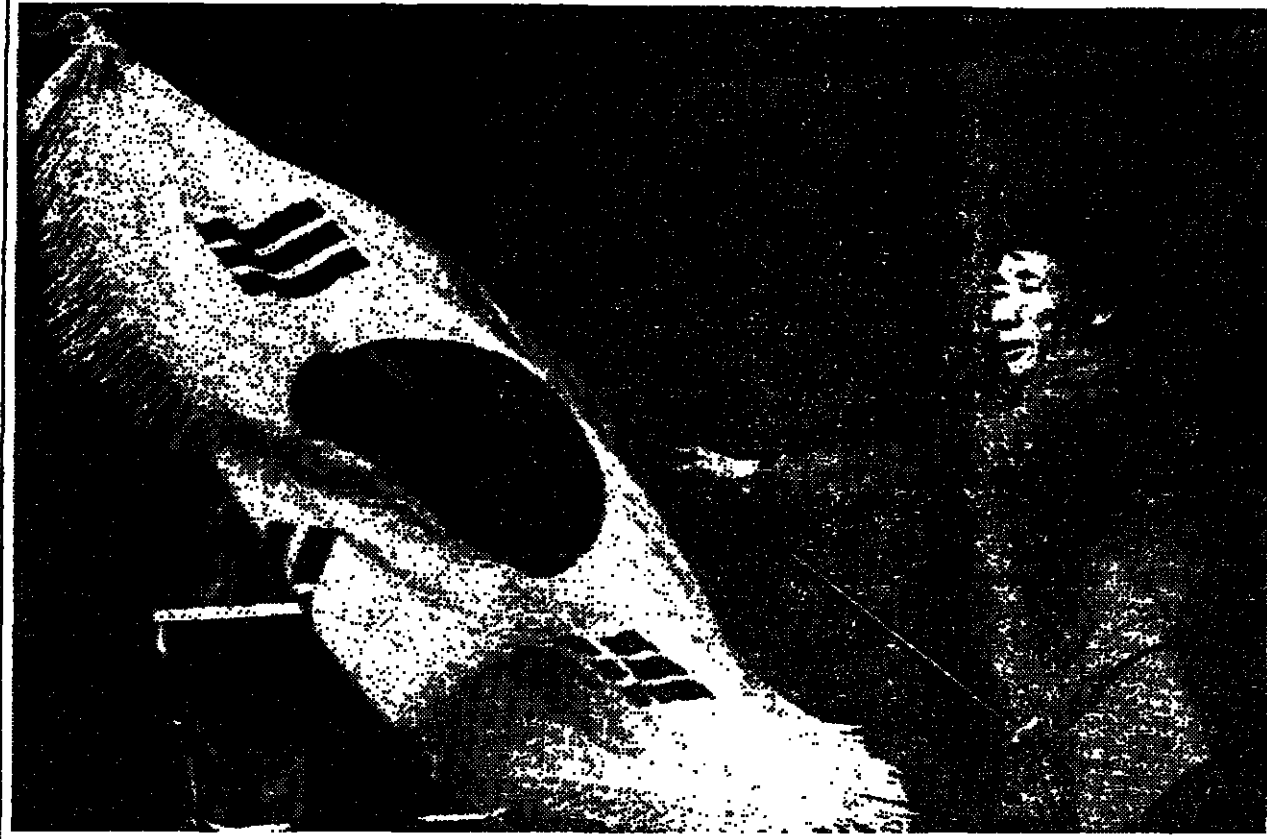
All this, the Tower report made clear, was a recipe for disaster.

By chance, a book about an earlier generation of brilliant statesmen has provoked debate as to a plausible commentary on today's state of things. *The Wise Men* looks at the careers of six close friends who, as selfless public servants, shaped America after the Second World War: Mr Averell Harriman, Mr Dean Acheson, Mr Robert Lovett, Mr John McCloy, Mr George Kennan and Mr Charles Bohlen.

These men had the training to help America assume a global role. They formulated the response to Soviet expansionism and welded together the NATO alliance. Their influence ended as America flourished in Vietnam. But theirs is now seen as the Golden Age of American diplomacy. It is sorely missed today.

It is an irony that the three old men, so full of insight in explaining, though not excusing, what happened in the Iran mess, would perhaps still be among the best to pull the country out of it.

North Korean defector celebrates in Seoul



Mr Kim Mahn Cheol, a North Korean defector who escaped to the South with members of his family, celebrating by waving the South Korean national flag at a welcoming ceremony held for him in Seoul yesterday. He escaped last month.

Women priests taking over in Norway

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

As the Anglican Church in Britain grapples with the schismatic issue of women clergy, Norwegians have been told that the next generation of vicars in their Church may turn out to be almost exclusively female.

In Norway's state Lutheran religion, the "priests", as they are called, have organized their own union, like any other professionals. Its general secretary, Mr Olav Dag Hauge, is convinced that economic forces, combined

with the strong Nordic tradition of sexual equality, are driving men out of the Church — and women are replacing them.

A Lutheran priest has to study for at least seven or eight years to qualify for his or her vocation, and he or she is then expected to be available to the congregation virtually 24 hours a day.

The pay is low, by the standards of affluent Norway at least, and unlike the Anglican vicar, the Norwegian variety is not given free accommodation.

As a result, Mr Hauge says, men are deserting their calling (one has even taken to performing cabaret in a fashionable Oslo restaurant), and women are moving in. Of 1,100 practising priests, only about 80 are women, but half of all theological students are females.

"Ten years ago it was only five or 10 out of 100 to 200 students who were women," Mr Hauge said. "By about the year 2020, I am sure you will have most vicars being women."

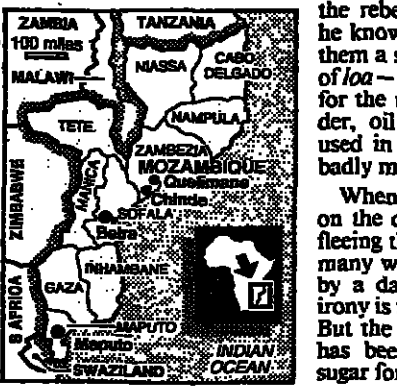
Civil war in Mozambique
Children suffer as schools destroyed

From Paul Valley, Chinde

Once the children of the Barrio dos Trabalhadores had a proper school. It was built of bricks and had wooden desks and a trained teacher. Sometimes they had paper and pencils, though they were never lucky enough to have books. Today they are being taught in a tiny hut of wood and reeds.

The man who is taking the lesson is a hospital auxiliary. There are no learning aids, except the mnemonic of the chant he is singing for them.

The guerrilla war by the Mozambique National Resistance against the Frelimo Government here escalated significantly in 1980 when white minority rule ended in Rhodesia and support for the MNR was transferred from Rhodesia to South Africa.

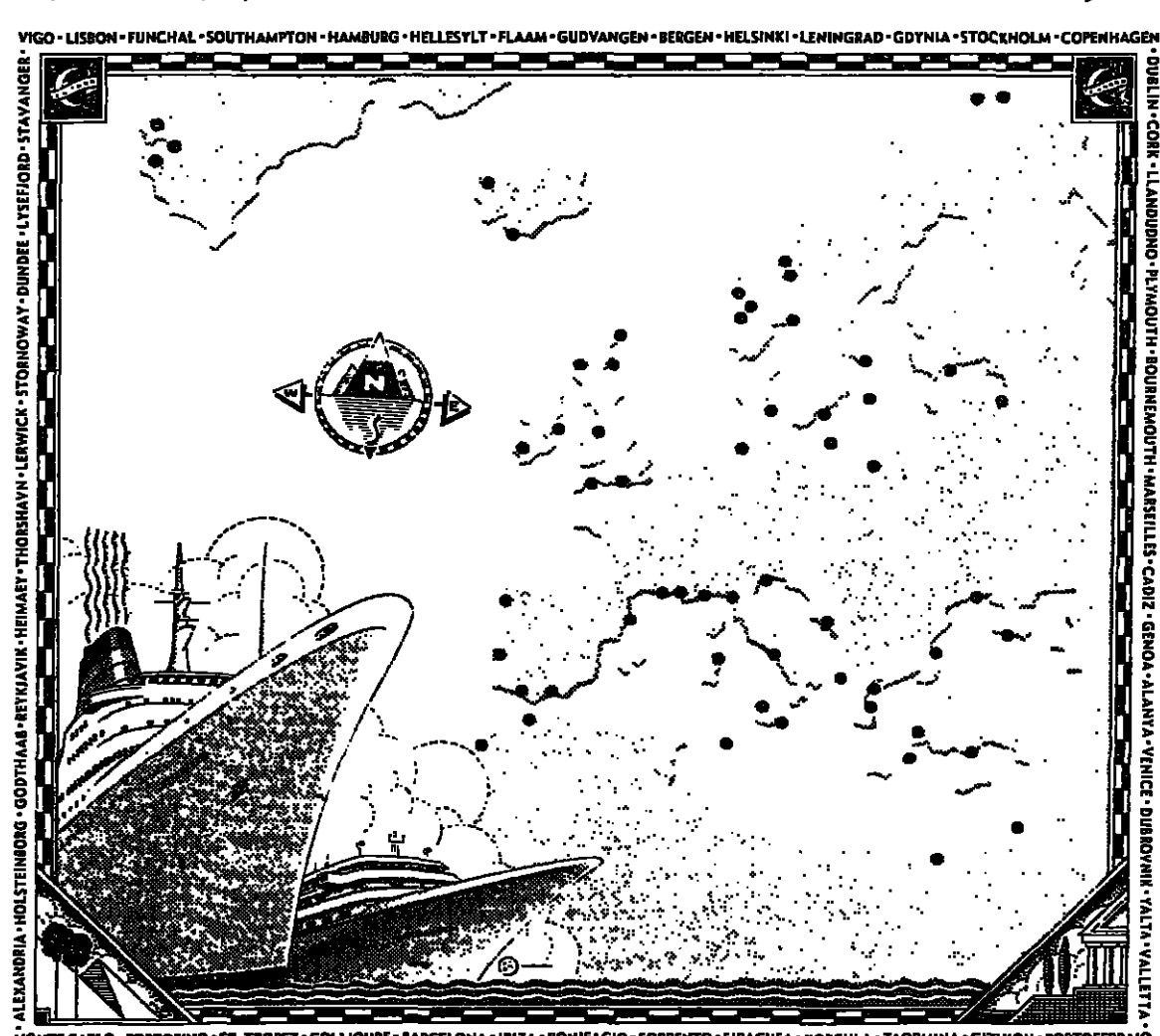


In the intervening years, 718 schools have been destroyed by the insurgents who have decided that schools and teachers are organs of the state and so legitimate targets.

In nearby Quimane, the capital of Zambezia province in the heart of the fighting, there is gruesome evidence of this. Among the townsfolk are refugee teachers who had their lips and ears cut off by the rebels in their campaign against education. The drive has led to 40 per cent of schools being destroyed or abandoned, leaving less than half the nation's children with even primary education.

But in Chinde there is no teacher, so the class is taken by Mr Francisco Frois, who works in the hospital at Loubo before that town fell to the rebels. Drawing on what he knows best, he is teaching them a song about the virtues of *loa* — a Portuguese acronym for the mixture of milk powder, oil and sugar which is used in therapeutic feeding of badly malnourished children.

When his charges arrived on the dunes of Chinde after fleeing the war in the interior, many were restored to health by a daily dose of *loa*. The irony is that some still need it. But the warehouse at Chinde has been empty of oil and sugar for eight weeks now.

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Willis angers Soviet union congress

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Norman Willis, the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, yesterday became involved in a public dispute with his Soviet hosts over the TUC's support for the Polish Solidarity trade union during his speech at the 13th congress of Soviet trade unions.

Mr Willis, who even before leaving London had expressed his lack of enthusiasm about leading the first official TUC delegation to the Moscow congress for nearly 40 years, prompted a sharp rebuke from Mrs Alexandra Petrovicheva, a woman electrical worker, who chaired the morning ses-

sion of some 5,000 Soviet delegates. She did not report Mr Willis's speech in full, but her anger was prompted by a section in which he expressed the TUC's recognition of Solidarity and its determination to continue support.

Mr Willis told the congress that to do their job properly, trade unions required "freedom of action and independence of other organizations".

He went on: "In our international work in South Africa, South America and in all regions, we, the TUC, do all we can to support independent trade union organizations."

"We have, for example, recognized Solidarity, which responded to the needs of the Polish working people for an independent voice in decisions which affected them. We have supported, and continue to support, the right of Solidarity to exist and carry on trade union work."

The Tass report merely stated that Mr Willis had "touched upon the TUC attitude to the Solidarity trade union".

Then, without explanation of what he had said, it went on to publish the Soviet rebuke to him. Mr Willis later made a copy of his remarks available to British correspondents.

Echoing the Kremlin's opposition to Solidarity, Mrs Petrovicheva told Mr Willis: "Our people's and our trade unions' assessment of the developments in the Polish trade union movement are different from what you said."

"We come out for non-interference in the internal affairs of Poland: we support the new independent Polish trade unions revived by the Polish people themselves."

The TUC's decision to send its delegation to Moscow has been criticized by Mr Eric Hammond, the leader of the electricians' union, and Mr Bill Jordan of the Engineering Union.

Middle East turmoil: Siege relief convoy ● Gulf stalemate ● Tensions in Israel

Cheers as UN food reaches refugee camp

Beirut (Reuters) — A Syrian officer supervised the entry of UN food into a besieged Palestinian refugee camp yesterday, but sniping and a Syrian statement of intent to oust guerrillas loyal to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasser Arafat, kept tensions high.

Hundreds of hungry refugees cheered as the trucks entered the battered Chatila camp with 16 tonnes of flour and milk powder, witnesses said. It was the first big food

At the Paris trial of Mr Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, the suspected guerrilla leader, the prosecution urged a sentence of not more than 10 years on charges of complicity in murdering two diplomats (Reuters reports).

delivery to Chatila since the Shia Muslim Amal militia siege started four months ago.

Sniper shots could be heard, and Palestinian sources said one person died yesterday in the nearby Bourj al-Barajneh camp, where three people were shot dead on Thursday.

"The siege is still on," Dr Chris Giannou, from Canada, said by radio from the camp. "Amal would not allow anybody to leave or enter. Amal confiscated badly needed medical supplies... but at least the children will have milk to drink."

Syria has backed Amal in its nearly two-year drive to oust

guerrillas loyal to Mr Arafat from Lebanese camps. Beirut's French-language *Nouvelles* magazine quoted Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, as saying the campaign was not over.

"We hope the (pro-Syrian) Palestine National Salvation Front will be able to take charge of the camps and put an end to the Arafat nucleus," Brigadier Kanaan said.

Syria opposes Mr Arafat because it believes he wants a peace deal with Jordan and Israel which would damage Syria's regional stance and also because an independent PLO presence in Lebanon might attract renewed Israeli intervention.

The PLO has said the Syrian deployment in Beirut is directed against the camps, where many guerrillas support Mr Arafat.

An Amal bulldozer worked for three hours to clear a passage through the debris for the two-truck convoy headed by Mr Per Hallqvist, Beirut director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

An UNRWA spokeswoman said the agency did not supply an equivalent amount of food to Amal, the condition for previous deliveries of food to the camps. A Syrian military observer supervised the operation and talked to both Amal and PLO fighters by radio.

Chatila is in the Shia south-



A United Nations lorry loaded with flour and dried milk entering the besieged Palestinian Chatila refugee camp yesterday escorted by a car from the UN Relief and Works Agency. The operation was carried out under Syrian Army supervision.

ern suburbs of Beirut, just outside the zone of west Beirut in which a 7,000-man force of Syrian troops has deployed since Sunday.

The Syrians have checkpoints on roads in and out of the suburbs, but Brigadier

Kanaan said Syria did not plan to deploy in the area, which is controlled by Amal and Hezbollah (Party of God).

Syrian troops have clashed with Hezbollah, and some of 26 foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian militants are be-

lieved to be held in the suburbs. "I have no information about the foreign hostages," Brigadier Kanaan told *Nouvelles*.

Police said five Americans were escorted out of west Beirut by car to Christian east

Beirut yesterday ahead of today's deadline set by the US State Department for all US citizens to leave Lebanon or risk penalties. No further details were given, and the US Embassy in east Beirut declined to comment.

Offensive by Iran runs out of steam

By Nicholas Beeston

Iran has halted its seven-week offensive against Iraq on the southern front near Basra because its forces are stale-mated and its assault has temporarily run out of steam, Western diplomats and experts on the Gulf War said yesterday.

In interpreting Tehran's announcement on Thursday, the observers said that the Iranian military would need time to replace its hardware. But they emphasized that adequate numbers of troops and reinforcements were on standby near the front for any attack.

It is now thought unlikely that Iran's "final offensive" will take place before Tehran's self-imposed deadline at the end of the Persian New Year on March 21.

Although Iranian forces have made some inroads into Iraqi defences across the Shatt al-Arab waterway and are now less than nine miles from the southern Iraqi city of Basra, an estimated 45,000 Iranians and 20,000 Iraqis have died in the marshlands during the last round of fighting.

Diplomats said they were surprised that the Iranian military communiqué released on Thursday announced the termination of the latest offensive, code-named Karbala 5.

One report from Tehran said that the Iranian action was the result of Soviet diplomatic pressure on both sides to stop the blood-letting.

The report, quoting Western diplomats in Iran, said that the Soviet Union had set up a deal, whereby Iraq would halt its attack on Iranian cities if Iran responded by suspending its offensive.

The Russians are said to have warned Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, during a visit to Moscow earlier this month that unless he abided by the agreement they would supply long-range SS 12 missiles to Baghdad.

Both sides agreed last week to a two-week moratorium on the bombardment of each other's cities.

Population of world five billion by July

Budapest (Reuters) — Mr Rafael Salas, executive director of the UN Fund for Population Activities, told the closing session of a European demography conference here yesterday that he expected the world's population to reach five billion in July and to stabilize at about 10 billion in the 22nd century.

"One thing is clear in contemplating the existence of five billion people," he told the Regional Meeting on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Europe.

"No development policy... can be sustainable in the long run if demand, which is determined *inter alia* by the size and structure of population, chronically exceeds the supply of resources and destabilizes the ecological system."

Food curbs

Brussels — The EEC has extended until October its current limits on radiation in traded food imposed after the Chernobyl disaster last year, despite British and French claims that they are too strict.

Bomb alert

Los Angeles (AP) — A British Caledonian jumbo jet landed in Los Angeles after a reported bomb threat, and two passengers were injured when they used emergency slides to leave the aircraft.

Cabinet quits

La Paz (Reuters) — Bolivia's 19-member Cabinet has offered its resignation and a senior government source said that President Victor Paz Estenssoro would announce at least four changes.

Burial ban

Peking (AP) — Visitors to Tibet are to be strictly prohibited from watching the region's traditional "sky burials" in which corpses are chopped up and fed to vultures.

Overdressed

Hong Kong (AFP) — A policeman who stopped a man here because he appeared oddly shaped found that he was wearing 18 bras and 45 pairs of women's panties, believed stolen.

Week's fighting cost £33m

From Juan Carlos Guncio west Beirut

Few people care to calculate anything but the human cost of Beirut's street battles. For the first time, however, a journalist on the leftist *As Safir* newspaper has done precisely that.

Last week's militia fighting, he has reported, cost about £33 million. According to the paper, 375 homes in west Beirut were destroyed, burned or damaged during six days of conflict between the Shia Muslim Amal militia and the Druze Progressive Socialist Party.

The most remarkable figure *As Safir* produced was the cost of the ammunition used in the battles: an estimated £2.6 million in shells, bullets, rockets, grenades and artillery rounds was consumed by the

two militias, of which £1.7 million went to pay for AK 47 and M 16 rifle bullets.

To repair the already obsolete telephone and electricity systems shattered by the fighting, *As Safir* claimed, would cost another £1 million. For a city that can scarcely afford to repair its rutted streets, the sum is almost beyond the comprehension of the city fathers, not least because the minimum wage in Lebanon is £25 a month.

But the paper's survey did have one detail that no one here would care to challenge: an estimated £2.7 million was stolen by looters in jewellery, cash and household goods from home owners who were often forced to watch their life's savings being taken by hooded gunmen.

Material damage to apartment blocks, offices and shops

is still being estimated but the Arab University, which found itself in the middle of the fighting at Treik el-Jide is said to have lost equipment and property valued at £7 million.

The old Commodore Hotel, which was engulfed in the street battles, is said to have lost about £500,000 in damage and looted property, which has prompted the owner to close it down and dismiss all but eight of his staff.

Paradoxically, it was the Commodore's mascot — a grey parrot of indeterminate age — that seemed to evoke most sympathy from the hotel's former journalist guests, rather than the plight of its long-suffering and courageous staff. A British reporter in Cyprus offered \$100 (£65) for the safe return of the bird, which vanished during the conflict.

Peres deal strains coalition

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, flew home from Cairo yesterday after agreeing to try to call this year an international conference on the Middle East.

Even as he signed the joint communiqué with President Mubarak, he must have known that his best chance of honouring the agreement is to bring down the Israeli Government and win an election on the issue.

In fact, Mr Peres returned delighted with the "extremely sympathetic welcome" he had received. As a practical way to mark the visit, he said, Egypt was now opening a direct telephone link between the two countries.

But, while he was in Cairo agreeing in writing to three

points about the international conference, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, was giving as many interviews as possible to insist that an international conference "is bad and dangerous for Israel" and "will lead to tragedy".

Discussions on the subject being conducted by Mr Peres, he said, were a deviation from the guidelines for running the coalition Government. It was possible, he said, the Government would fall.

Mr Peres should report back to the Cabinet tomorrow and explain the three new points he has agreed in writing about holding the conference. These are that it must lead to direct negotiations; that everyone concerned must agree on who the Palestinian representative should be; and that Israel and Egypt will co-operate in preparations to advance the

peace process.

The first of these points is meant to soothe the anger of Mr Shamir, who insists that only direct negotiations are relevant.

The second point means that Mr Peres has persuaded Egypt that Israel cannot be made to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The final point means that work is to continue on convening the international conference, something that was agreed verbally when the two last met in Alexandria five months ago.

● CAIRO: Before ending his visit here yesterday, Mr Peres denied that Israel had initiated the arms deal between Iran and the US to cause tension between Washington and its Arab moderate allies (A Correspondent writes).

GUINNESS

The harp that turned into a fiddle

Ivan Fallon, Britain's leading financial journalist, reconstructs the biggest City scandal ever. His astonishing story tracks down the secret cast of players, spells out the plots, uncovers the deceptions, and traces the phone call that cost millions.



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Peking's shadow on Hong Kong

Communist backlash in China revives fears for the colony's future

From Robert Grievs, Hong Kong

In Chater Garden Square here, on a recent rainy day, a Chinese rock group began a lunchtime concert for passing businessmen, students and the idly curious with a pop song by Madonna entitled "Papa Don't Preach".

Not far away in a high-rise office building, Mr Martin Lee, a prominent Hong Kong lawyer and member of the Colony's Legislative Council, picked up the refrain: "I believe that after 1997 the final right of adjudication in all cases pertaining to Hong Kong should be given to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and not left for Peking to decide."

Mr Lee, who is also a member of the committee drafting Hong Kong's Basic Law, or Constitution, said the problem is that, in 20 cases involving precedents similar to China's takeover of Hong Kong in 1997 that he had researched, "the sovereign state has retained the right of sovereignty" over the administrative region involved. "We must have assurances and guarantees that this will not happen to Hong Kong," he said.

More than two years after the final British joint declaration on Hong Kong was signed, the territory is still trying to determine what its relationship to China will be when it reverts to Chinese control.

The unceremonious dismissal last month of Mr Hu Yaobang from his post as General Secretary of China's Communist Party, and the reported struggle between conservatives and liberals in the Peking Government, has fanned fears in the territory

that Peking has once again become unpredictable and thus may not honour its promises of autonomy for Hong Kong.

At the same time, some British investors are said to be liquidating their personal investment portfolios in Hong Kong. In a radio interview this week, Mr Simon Keswick, the head of Jardines, attempted to reassure listeners that his conglomerate still had a "massive" investment of \$HK 45 billion (£3.7 billion) in the territory.

Mr Keswick's assurances may not be enough to quell local jitters over the territory's long-term economic future. Several years ago, his company moved its mailing address from Hong Kong to Bermuda. And this week, a former Jardines subsidiary, Hongkong Land, completed the sale of its \$174 million (£113 million) Hong Kong property portfolio.

More fears have been raised by China's growing economic importance in Hong Kong's financial sector. The Bank of China and its 13 sister banks in Hong Kong are becoming an increasingly important economic force in the territory.

Critics have said that the Bank of China's rescue of the ailing Kah Wah Bank and the recent purchase of 12.6 per cent of Cathay Pacific airlines by the China International Trust and Investment Corporation, will in the long run make the financial sector here more uncompetitive.

Moreover, Hong Kong residents are still resentful about what one official here terms China's "ungracious" handling of the territory's complaints concerning the con-

struction of the Daya Bay nuclear plant, 40 miles north-east of Hong Kong. Frightened by the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union last year, Hong Kong citizens presented a petition with more than one million signatures to government officials in Peking. The request was largely ignored and construction of the plant has proceeded.

The most important issue worrying Hong Kong these days is when, or if, the territory will have direct elections. Chinese officials have not commented on the idea, but Hong Kong's government is conducting a survey on political awareness and practices that will be published in a Green Paper this May or June. After that, a White Paper stating possible ways to achieve democratic elections will be published by the end of the year.

"Many people think we want to leave a little Westerner behind when we leave," a British official here said. "That's not quite true. We want to leave Hong Kong in a position of strength so that it can fend off any unsuitable overtures from Peking."

Despite the worries, Hong Kong residents are trying to remain optimistic.

"As long as China goes on to develop there will be a need for us," Miss Maria Tam said. She is a prominent and outspoken member of Hong Kong's Legislative Council and a member of the committee drafting the basic law. "Our position as a gateway to the China market is our major strength."

Shultz to seek guidance on pace of change in China

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, will discuss in Peking next week relations with the Soviet Union, arms control prospects and the implications of the recent crackdown on Western influences in China.

The Afghanistan and Cambodian conflicts, other Asian issues, and bilateral trade and economic matters are also expected to come up.

A senior American official said that the US was so far not unduly concerned about the internal crackdown against "bourgeois liberalism" or Western political and cultural influences.

The official said that Mr Shultz was eager to hear more from the Chinese leadership about the implications of the restrictions, in which intel-

lectuals have also been purged from the Chinese leadership.

"We're not, at this point, overly concerned," the official said, in view of the manner in which Mr Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders under him had talked about how they viewed what was happening in China. He added that the question was one of how rapidly certain changes took place in China in the political and economic areas, and not whether they took place.

"We want to hear their interpretation of events, and hear what direction China is moving in," he said.

The official also said that Washington was "not overly concerned" with the reported progress Peking is making with Moscow in healing the

rupture in their relations of the mid-1960s.

The two big communist powers appeared to be making progress in renewed talks on border problems, one of the big disputes between them. "If it cases tension and makes for more normal relations between them, we have no problem with that,"

Mr Shultz will arrive in Peking tomorrow after a short cruise on the Li river near the southern city of Guilin on his way from a rest stop in Hong Kong.

He will leave China on March 6 on short flying visits to Seoul and Tokyo for wide-ranging talks with South Korean and Japanese leaders before returning to Washington on March 8.

Manila inquiry criticizes police

Manila (Reuters) — A Philippines Government commission of inquiry yesterday recommended the prosecution of policemen photographed firing their guns in a clash with demonstrators last month in which 15 people were killed and 100 wounded.

It also said that Mr Jaime Tadeo, who led thousands of peasants in a protest march that ended in the clash with police guarding the presidential palace, would be charged with inciting sedition.

The commission, in a report to President Aquino, said senior police officers and an army general who deployed "raw Marine recruits" to disperse the marchers, would be reprimanded.

The presidential spokesman, Mr Teodoro Benigno,

told reporters that Mrs Aquino would endorse the report to the Secretary of Justice for "appropriate action". Mr Benigno said the report would please neither the military nor the marchers.



Mrs Aquino: expected to endorse the report.

South African army officer in court on spying charges

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A South African army officer arrested on suspicion of trying to pass military secrets to front-line states appeared briefly in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

Before the officer was remanded in custody until May 4, the court was cleared with the very reasons for the request for a hearing in camera being described to Justice W. J. Human as being of such a nature that they could not be made known.

According to the charge sheet, Major Andre Pienaar, aged 32, is accused of six offences under the Protection of Information Act and the Defence Act.

He was arrested last Decem-

ber at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport shortly before he was due to fly to an undisclosed destination in Africa.

He has since been held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Citizens warned: The South African Government warned its citizens yesterday that they were safe in only three neighbouring black states from being arrested as suspected spies.

Foreign Minister, P. W. Botha, said that visas issued by countries other than Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland were no guarantee that visiting South Africans would not be detained.

His statement followed the arrests last Monday in Zambia of two white South Africans

and 27 other foreigners after a bomb explosion in Lusaka.

● **Mandela's detention:** Ms Zini Mandela, aged 26, who is the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress leader, was detained and questioned for five hours yesterday by Soweto police.

Mr Ismael Ayob, the Mandela family lawyer, said he had no details about reports that the police found a Soviet-made pistol on top of her wardrobe.

He added that three hours after Ms Mandela was held 10 members of the "Mandela United" football club were taken into custody. The club is made up of Soweto youngsters who meet regularly at the Mandela home. Police were unable to confirm the arrests.

Experts doubt African response

From Jan Raath, Harare

Ten of 44 nations in the World Health Organization's African region have failed to give the group information on the incidence of Aids in their countries, and another 16 claim to have recorded no cases at all, according to statistics released here.

A meeting of the WHO southern African sub-regional office here this week reported that up to the middle of last month 18 African countries had reported a total of 2,324 cases.

Among those not reporting any incidence was Zaire, known among Aids researchers as having possibly the highest incidence in Africa, and described by an independent American institute last year as "the epicentre of Aids"

on the continent.

Conspicuous among those claiming to have recorded no cases are Nigeria, which is surrounded by countries confirming instances, and the tourist-attraction islands of Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The figures show Uganda with the highest rate, 766, followed by Tanzania with 462, and Zambia and the Congo, each with 250.

But many officials ad-

vocated wider anonymous screening. Dr Joseph said New York was about to launch a programme to test blood samples from hospitals anonymously in order to show infection rates by age, sex and geography.

A big issue facing health officials is the question of notifying the sexual partners of infected people. Civil rights laws in California and several other states forbid doctors from making such notification without the consent of the infected person.

But one public health official at the conference said "the right to privacy does not include the right to inflict harm" and urged mandatory notification.

The officials also heard strong evidence that most heterosexual American men and women were ignoring the deluge of Aids publicity.

The main condom manufacturer has issued a further confirmation of this — figures that show little rise in sales

Winding up their two-day meeting, the health officials and doctors reached broad agreement on the need for wider testing, provided it was voluntary and accompanied by counselling and guarantees that the results would stay confidential.

Dr Ronald Altman of New Jersey called this "a ridiculous concept" that would cost \$200 million a year.

But many officials ad-

Moscow to set up an Aids hot line

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As concern about the spread of Aids inside the Soviet Union continues to grow, the Government has announced that it is setting up a new anonymous emergency telephone service which anyone who fears they have contracted the disease can call to discuss their symptoms with medical experts.

In an interview with the official magazine *Liternaya Gazeta*, Mr Georgy Khlyabich, the Deputy Health Minister, pledged that all those who rang the new service would be eligible for an anonymous medical check.

He also disclosed that tens of thousands of Soviet citizens in the "high risk" sector had already been screened for the disease, about which the Soviet media carried little information until recently.

Mr Khlyabich said that more than 40 scientific institutions in the country were now actively studying Aids, but he expressed regret that several million Soviet blood donors are still not being screened for it and that at present virtually no disposable syringes are available in Soviet hospitals.

In the frankest interview yet to appear in the official press on the subject, the deputy minister admitted that it would be another two years before the equipment would be available for all donor blood to be tested, and five years before "almost all" Soviet hospitals had switched to using disposable syringes.

Questioned about how many people in the Soviet Union have contracted Aids to date, Mr Khlyabich said that 13 people, 12 of them foreign, had already been given a "definite diagnosis" and a further 15 were suspected of having the disease, again most of them foreigners.

Mr Khlyabich said that throughout the 15 republics of the Soviet Union there were so far only three special clinics set up for testing, and if necessary treating, victims of Aids.

Plans were now being implemented to set up Aids departments in hospitals already established for handling infectious diseases.

● **MADRID:** A state-run hospital in Barcelona unknowingly used Aids-infected blood for transfusion on at least one woman, according to information reaching here yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

The error occurred because the hospital management took four months to authorize the purchase of equipment to test donors' blood for Aids from the time it received the order from the Catalan regional Government to analyze all samples before making transfusions. Public health authorities announced an investigation.

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LONDON LEEDS NEW YORK MANCHESTER

Votes for Worrall in the whites-only bar

From Michael Hornsby, Somerset West, Western Cape

The verdict among white patrons of the rather seedy bar of the Alexandra Hotel on the main street of Somerset West this week was that it would be "a damn close thing", and no one seemed inclined to bet on the result.

"I think I will vote for Worrall," a retired businessman in shorts and knee-length socks, previously a government supporter, said. "The reforms have got bogged down; we need a change." Several full-on drinkers nodded their agreement.

The topic of their gossip was the ambitious attempt by Dr Denis Worrall, South Africa's former Ambassador in London, to dislodge the sitting government MIP and Cabinet minister, Mr Chris Heunis, by running as an independent in the white general election on May 6.

None of Dr Worrall's bar-stool sympathizers appeared to sense any irony in the fact that the premises in which they were voicing these tentative intimations of rebellion still proclaimed in bold yellow lettering over its entrance: "Europeans only".

Something of the same ambiguity seems to hang over Dr Worrall's campaign, which he launched on

Thursday night before a friendly audience of about 1,100 people, mainly students and academics, in the town hall of Stellenbosch.

He impressed as a communicator, fluent in Afrikaans and English, but left many of his listeners uncertain about exactly where he stands, neither against the National Party (NP) as such, so he says, nor "necessarily" for the ultra-liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

Helderberg (literally "clear mountain"). Mr Heunis's constituency, lies in one of the most beautiful parts of the wine-growing Western Cape, bordered to the north by the Hottentots-Holland Mountains and to the south by the coastal resort of Gordon's Bay.

It contains, according to the latest count, 21,649 eligible white voters, sharply up on the 13,277 registered to vote at the last general election in 1981. The large number of newcomers alone makes the outcome on May 6 difficult to predict.

The electorate is split roughly 50-50 between Afrikaans and English speakers. About half of them live in Somerset West (named after Lord Charles Somerset, an early 19th-century British Governor of the Cape),

half an hour's drive south-east of Cape Town.

Nearly 3,600 live in the overwhelmingly Afrikaans-speaking southern suburbs of Stellenbosch, the seat of the oldest Afrikaans university in the country, famous for its oak-shaded streets and Cape Dutch architecture. They are mainly academics and professional people.

This could be crucial territory for Dr Worrall. Discontented professors are expected to put up an independent candidate of their own in the Stellenbosch constituency, and this would give a fillip to Dr Worrall's campaign in neighbouring Helderberg.

In 1981 Mr Heunis won 65 per cent of the vote to the 35 per cent cast for the PFP. This time the PFP is not contesting the seat and has instructed its voters to support Dr Worrall. An extreme right-wing candidate, Mr Len de Wet, a Somerset West businessman, of the Conservative Party (CP), is also running.

It is reckoned that the CP could siphon off about 5 per cent of support that might otherwise have gone to Mr Heunis, particularly among conservative whites from Namibia and the former Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, who have settled in the area.

That suggests that Dr Worrall, to



African students in Delhi demonstrating yesterday against "racist" compulsory Aids tests for foreign students.

Police later broke up the protest, which involved about 150 students who were marching near the Indian capital's old walled city (Reuters reports from Delhi).

Police bundled many protesters into trucks and ripped up banners, one of which said: "Aids is not from Africa." Some policemen hit students with rifle butts. The protest was sparked off by a government order that all foreign students should be screened for Aids.

Mr Nduru Maina, president of the African Students' Association, said the tests were racist because they were aimed at Africans. "People have been taken in by propaganda that Aids is African," he said. Mr Maina, aged 24, from Kenya, said the students would seek a meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to demand that the tests be stopped.

The Government said in Parliament earlier this week that it would continue the tests. Nearly 1,130 foreigners have been screened since the decree was

issued in August. Ten were infected with the Aids virus, it said. It did not say whether Aids sufferers had been deported.

Education officials estimate that most of the 20,000 foreigners studying in India are African, mainly from Kenya and Nigeria. Apart from foreign students, 86 people in India have contracted Aids and five have died, the Government said. University authorities deny that the tests are racist, since they cover all students from more than 50 countries.

US health officials reject compulsory blood tests in battle against Aids

From Charles Bremner, New York

America's top health officials, holding an extraordinary meeting on ways to stem the spread of Aids, have agreed that mandatory blood testing for a large section of the population is not feasible and could hinder efforts to control the disease.

A consensus against a proposal to test all hospital patients and couples getting married emerged on the first day of the conference in Atlanta, Georgia, attended by 800 federal and state health chiefs, doctors and rights activists including a New York homosexual rights group.

Dr James Curran, Aids programme director of the national Centres for Disease Control, which organized the meeting, said "the hidden epidemic is really there".

Some 1.5 million Americans are believed to have been infected with the virus, which destroys the body's immune system. About half are expected to die from the disease. In cities with high concentrations of Aids victims, such as New York, infection has reached one in 30 men and one in 75 women, Dr Curran said.

At the core of the two-day Atlanta debate is the issue of how to protect privacy and civil rights while combating a disease that carries a major stigma.

Opponents of the idea said widespread testing could drive people at risk away from the health care system.

One complicating factor stems from the fact that only about half of those infected are

likely to contract the disease, though they can pass the virus on to others.

Dr James Mason, director of the CDC, ruled out compulsory testing for all Americans, and said whatever testing did take place should be accompanied by strong legal protection against disclosing the identities of people infected.

Dr Stephen Joseph, New York's Health Commissioner, said he had not heard a single health official at the gathering advocate compulsory testing for hospital patients, pregnant women or marriage licence applicants.

Dr Ronald Altman of New Jersey called this "a ridiculous concept" that would cost \$200 million a year.

But many officials ad-

vocated wider anonymous screening. Dr Joseph said New York was about to launch a programme to test blood samples from hospitals anonymously in order to show infection rates by age, sex and geography.

A big issue facing health officials is the question of notifying the sexual partners of infected people. Civil rights laws in California and several other states forbid doctors from making such notification without the consent of the infected person.

But one public health official at the conference said "the right to privacy does not include the right to inflict harm" and urged mandatory notification.

The officials also heard strong evidence that most heterosexual American men and women were ignoring the deluge of Aids publicity.

The main condom manufacturer has issued a further confirmation of this — figures that show little rise in sales

Winding up their two-day meeting, the health officials and doctors reached broad agreement on the need for wider testing, provided it was voluntary and accompanied by counselling and guarantees that the results would stay confidential.

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SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

Socking it to them

The Palace revolution is on: today supporters of Crystal Palace will receive the news they don't want to hear — that the club seems ready to accept the proposed merger with Wimbledon. Fans at this afternoon's game against Blackburn will be handed a document which reveals that the proposal came from Wimbledon and that the merged clubs would be run by a newly formed company which would start with "no liabilities" — quite an achievement, given the current Palace debt.

The new board would be 50-50: Palace-Wimbledon and the joint venture would be named, initially, "Wimbledon and Crystal Palace" or "Crystal Palace and Wimbledon". After a year in operation as a single club, supporters would have the chance to vote on an alternative name. A merged club, the document claims, would, definitely play in the First Division next season. Supporters will also be asked to fill in a questionnaire that asks such pertinent things as: "Is the idea [of a merger] exciting or, b, are you not really convinced either way?" It also asks, rather plaintively: "If you are against the merger, will you always support the Palace?" Aye, there's the rub.

Royal charger

Princess Anne is in training for two notable rides on steeplechases. One is Aldanti, Bob Champion's National-winning steed, on which she will take the Cheltenham leg of the horse's sponsored trek from Buckingham Palace to Aintree in aid of the Bob Champion Cancer Fund. The other horse, the Gaelic-named Cnoc Na Cuille, will provide her first race over fences, at Worcester next Wednesday. I cannot see Worcester's 4ft 6in brush fences worrying a rider who has tackled the monstrous obstacles of Badminton.

Old-timers

Age cannot wither the true footballing nutter. Corinthian-Casuals run a veterans' side which, among other things, plays in a cup competition for footballers aged 35 and over. But to the Casuals, a 35-year-old is callow and green. They prefer a player with a little more maturity. After one match, they worked out that the combined ages of their back four plus goalkeeper was 250. The regulars include a former Olympic goalkeeper, a number of ex-England amateurs and four former Oxford captains. The club is now throwing out a challenge to the nation: it reckons it can beat any team in the country that matches its team's combined age of 500.

Come in No 9

Boston United of the GM Vauxhall Conference have got through eight goalkeepers so far this season following a spate of injuries and unscheduled departures. The eighth, Lee Butler, was on loan from Lincoln City and has just been recalled. Eric McManus, still suffering from the knee injury that put him out of the team, made a gallant comeback for a mid-week match which the club lost 3-0 — it would have been 6-0 without his inspired performance. Boston men report. But McManus is too fragile to carry on. So it is time for keeper No 9 — preferably in time for today's match at Bath.

Valencia, the Czech racehorse, is in Sussex preparing for the Grand National. One thing his jockey shouldn't need to worry about is getting wet. Valencia has completed the fearsome Czech Pardubice course in which the water jump is 6ft deep.

Cold response

When the West German team won the 3 x 10km cross-country relay at the Nordic skiing world championships, at Oberstdorf, West Germany, their doctor attempted to greet the last man home with a bottle of champagne. The International Skiing Federation deemed this disgraceful, and banned him for two years. The event's sponsors include a vodka company and a brewery, and the federation gets 40 per cent of the proceeds. Officials also suspended a Swedish competitor, Karin Lambert-Skog, for three months for assaulting an opponent with her skis. Lambert-Skog had just completed her own run when she saw an Italian skier refusing to let another competitor past. What else could a red-blooded girl do but belt her one?

BARRY FANTONI



'It will feel strange punching myself up.'

David Butler considers the Greenwich portents . . . Anne Sofer tells how it was on the doorsteps

The lessons for the marginals

Greenwich was only the most spectacular of a series. The major parties have fought 15 by-elections during this parliament. The Alliance has gained three seats from the Conservatives and one from Labour. It has come within 1,000 votes of victory in three others. Only in one seat (Fulham last April) has it failed to win second place. It has won 38 per cent of all the votes cast, compared with 31 per cent for the Conservatives and 29 per cent for Labour.

On this basis the Alliance could be dreaming of reaching the magic 326 seats in the next parliament and the unfettered power that would imply. No one seriously believes this will happen.

In a by-election the voters know they are not choosing a government and it is easy for concentrated campaign activity, reinforced by full media coverage, to educate the constituency electorate about the tactical situation. In a general election a different question is at stake: "Do you want to throw out the government you know, want and all, for an uncertain alternative?" And at the local level electioneering is then less intense — voters are mainly influenced by the national media challenging them to choose between the main contenders, Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock, rather than to think about the local candidates or the local tactical situation.

There is nothing new about tactical voting. But Greenwich, to a new degree, provided a spectacular education about its possibilities. In the 311 seats (263

Conservative and 48 Labour) where the Alliance won second place in 1983, it will be spurred more than ever to concentrate its campaigning on telling the electorate that only a vote for the Alliance can beat the local incumbent. If it succeeds, this could play havoc with the nice calculations and charts about the relations between seats and votes which are based on the assumption of uniform swing.

The Times/MORI poll last week, which showed that marginal seats are not behaving like the rest of the nation, also made clear that at the moment most voters are not aware of the tactical situation locally. The onset of a general election will do something to change that but in the key constituencies the Alliance campaigners will be nothing like as thick on the ground or as skilfully organized as in Greenwich.

The Alliance had a lot going for it in Greenwich that will not apply elsewhere. The seat lies between the only Alliance strongholds in London — Simon Hughes's Bermondsey & Southwark and John Cartwright's Woolwich. The Conservative choice of candidate, and still more the Labour choice, seem to have served the Alliance cause.

The whole situation was quite different from Fulham and the media lent themselves to discrediting Labour and to fostering tactical voting.

The outcome must be treated with caution. The third-party advance was less spectacular than Orpington in 1962, or Ladywood in 1969, or Ely in 1973, or Edge Hill in 1979, or Crosby in 1981. And none of these was followed by any overwhelming upsurge. In third-party representation in the succeeding elections.

LABOUR'S ELECTION TASK

Total No of MPs	Seats Labour must win	Con majority over Lab		1983 Vote		
		Votes	%	Con %	Lab %	All %
210	Leicester South	7	0.0	40.3	40.3	17.1
220	Oxford East	1267	2.7	40.0	37.3	22.7
330	Bristol E or Renfrew	1789	3.7	40.5	36.9	21.3
240	Newcastle Central	2228	5.0	40.8	35.8	22.3
250	Corby	3168	6.4	42.8	36.1	20.3
260	Edinburgh South	3661	8.2	36.8	28.6	23.6
270	Ilford South	4566	11.1	45.4	34.3	19.5
280	Ealing North	6291	12.3	45.1	32.8	21.5
290	Derbyshire South	8613	14.6	43.8	29.2	27.0
300	Calder Valley	9338	16.7	43.7	27.0	29.4
310	Brentford	9387	18.2	47.4	29.3	22.1
320	Ynys Mon	8226	20.4	37.5	16.9	12.3
326	Luton North	11981	22.2	48.3	26.2	25.5

* Welsh Nationalists got 33.3% of vote

Stewart Tendler on the man who tried to reshape London's police

Newman: the modernizer of the Met



Sir Kenneth as seen by Spitting Image: the revolution is not easy

riots a year earlier had left a trail of criticism: Operation Countryman had raised questions about the honesty of the CID.

In a survey instituted by the Yard, the Policy Studies Institute was taking a highly critical view of police and the London public. The police service as a whole was being urged to give value for money.

Newman was not deterred. He was to bring to London the distillation of a police education spent as much in the library and lecture hall as the street. His plan was to rescue the police from the mire into which they had fallen in their futile drive to halt the rise in crime.

In Newman's view, the police had to act positively, "pro-actively" was his term, shaping their own destiny. Policemen would become "omnipotent", skilled generalists with a training and an ethos superior to those of the past.

gathered pace, training for both recruits and detectives was subjected to a thorough overhaul. Police objectives were placed under the microscope.

No revolution is happy or necessarily successful. Newman was criticized within the force for diverting badly needed manpower into preparing reports and analyses. This persuaded a number of valuable middle-ranking officers to quit London for the provinces or retirement.

His reorganization of the force structure, which has created eight police areas across the capital, has decentralized the police effort but increased the risk of rivalry between autonomous local commanders.

The failure of his commanders at the Broadwater Farm Estate riot in north London to take the tough action his junior ranks believe was necessary has left a legacy of friction in the lower ranks.

In the short term, the public will judge Newman by the crime figures. In 1982, the crime rate rose by 9 per cent to 668,179 serious offences and the clear-up rate was 16 per cent. Last year there was a 5 per cent increase to 768,000 crimes, with a clear-up rate back down to 16 per cent after it had risen at one stage to 18 per cent. These figures should be contrasted with Home Office statistics for serious offences committed per 100,000 of the population in the respective police areas of England and Wales. In 1982 London outstripped all other forces. In 1985 it was fourth.

Nonetheless, Newman leaves his successor with a mighty collection of problems. They range from the difficulties of policing "symbolic locations" in ethnic areas to the public perception of constantly increasing crime.

Any commissioner in the 1980s faces a fight on several fronts. He has to operate within the confines of a restricted budget and manpower quotas set by central government. He must overcome the vehement opposition of London Labour boroughs.

But Newman has also started, and left for his successor, new attempts to curb major areas of crime by targeting and surveillance and the neighbourhood watch schemes.

In the long term he will be regarded with respect as the chief who forced both the police service and the public to make a realistic appraisal of policing in the late 20th century. He initiated ideas in a traditionally barren area.

What future for Newman himself? Two former commissioners have sat in the House of Lords. A peerage was bruited for Sir Robert Mark.

As the Newman revolution

Arctic invasion challenges the seal lobby

Oslo, Norway, faced with what it describes as an ecological catastrophe along its west coast, has launched an international public-relations campaign for the resumption of large-scale seal hunting. This will certainly arouse the wrath of the environmentalists' seal lobby, but the Norwegians are desperate to find a way to deal with an unprecedented invasion of seals that has thrown their fishing industry into chaos.

Up to 300,000 starving harp seals have travelled many hundreds of miles south of their normal range — probably from the "West Ice" waters high above the Arctic Circle and nearer Greenland than Norway — into the heart of the Norwegians' main fisheries. More than 30,000 have been caught up in fishermen's nets since the beginning of the year, destroying tackle, reducing catches to virtually nil — and even causing pollution alerts as their corpses drift ashore.

For the first time in living memory, harp seals have been seen even in the southern approaches to Oslo. At fish farms

scores of thousands of fry have been destroyed in "commando attacks" by the seals. "Thousands of fishermen face bankruptcy," says Hans Wiesener, director of the Norwegian Wet Fish Association in Tromsø. "Many of them have simply given up setting their nets. There's just nothing but seals out there."

Government spokesmen, who are normally out of touch with the preoccupations of the fishermen, are using the ancient and evocative expression "black sea" to describe waters devoid of fish.

Norway raised its plea for increased sealing at a meeting of the Nordic Council this week in Helsinki. Since the EEC banned the import of baby seal skins in 1982, the once-flourishing Norwegian sealing fleet has dwindled to a mere five ships.

The seals are clearly driven by hunger, but there is no obvious explanation for the magnitude of this population explosion, bigger than any recorded since 1903. There is not even agreement on where they have come from. One expert argues that it may be from the "East Ice" in the Barents Sea,

beyond Norway's northern tip.

Whatever their source, the invading seals are almost certainly only one element in a series of changes in the ecology of the high Arctic that have been puzzling scientists for several years. Seals are voracious feeders — it is estimated that the invasion could account for about two million pounds of fish daily — although hardly as indiscriminate as some fishermen and sealers would have us believe. They are particularly fond of capelin, a small fish of the smelt family. The problem, government scientists believe, is not so much that the capelin are scarcer than usual, but that they, and other appetizing species, are moving around.

The recovery of fish stocks of all species after the disastrous overfishing of the 1960s and 1970s has combined with natural, cyclical changes in ocean currents to create wild swings in the distribution of different varieties. The seals (like the scientists) can hardly keep track of their prey.

Similar hypotheses are the closest scientists can come to an explanation for other puzzling

changes in the far north, including a collapse of puffin populations and a decline of almost two-thirds in the numbers of common guillemot since 1984.

At least one school of conservationists is convinced that the complex of changes may call into question one of the most sacrosanct principles of environmental management, "maximum sustainable yield". In simple terms, the principle is that fish stocks (on any other living natural resource) are managed so as to extract the maximum yield while ensuring that enough of the resource survives to keep reproducing to sustain the same harvest.

The dissenters argue that if you are constantly pressing populations to their limit, you must expect them to take evasive action, and exploit new ecological niches, as they arise. This in turn will accelerate the natural cyclical changes, so that populations change that might once have taken a decade or more will now work themselves through in a few years.

Tony Samstag

A tactical voter, dripping wet

Last Sunday morning in Greenwich my task was to hunt up the "Tory tacticals". They weren't at all difficult to find. Indeed they were coming up to us in the street to identify themselves. The young man who answered the door with dripping hair and a small towel for his towel was typical. "Yes, your lot, tactically," he said in shorthand before I had a chance to open my mouth — and went back to the shower.

I had a couple of failures. I spent some time with a cutglass old lady under her exquisite Georgian fanlight. "Well, it's very difficult. I certainly don't want that other gel to win, but I feel sorry for the young man. And I do really think both the women should be at home looking after their children." Another robust Conservative detained me while she expressed her support for Mrs Thatcher. "Only one with any guts. All the others are hopelessly feeble." Not David Owen, surely? "Can't stand the man. Terrible drip." The high skies and long vistas of Blackheath suddenly made me see my leader in a new perspective.

On a sunny morning Greenwich seems to have more light and air than any other part of London — or perhaps that was just campaign euphoria. At lunchtime hundreds of Alliance canvassers converged on Greenwich Park, where *Newsnight* filmed us looking optimistic at the foot of the hill beneath the observatory. On request we rather erratically waved banners spelling out "Rosie" and even sang a silly song. The heady atmosphere was damaging to our reputation for seriousness.

Of course at by-elections everybody dances to *Newsnight's* tune. There was much sour comment in the press about Vincent Hanna. "Too big for his boots — and his suits," said the *New Statesman*, with the same personal nastiness it was busy deploring on other pages. "Thinks the whole thing is for his benefit" others muttered grumpily. In truth, the daily round of press conferences became a curious ritual. The party set out its morning agenda — housing, say, or the rates — and had the candidate and a visiting politician say a few words. This was a pure formality; a few journalists pretended to take notes but in reality nobody took any notice.

After a short and hardly decent pause, Vincent would then set out the real agenda: pulling out of his pocket an incriminating letter from a former member of the party, or making a surprise allegation of more "dirty tricks". The assembled press corps scribbled like mad, the cameras pivoted energetically, and all the campaign coverage for the next 24 hours would be devoted to this incident.

"Why on earth do the other hacks let you get away with it?" I asked Hanna after one of these performances. He squirmed a little, but looked extremely

pleased with himself. The truth is that he is good entertainment.

Certainly there is a danger of personalities and polls taking over by-elections. The Labour Party has been hugely indignant about this, but in some ways I think it has actually been to its advantage. Because the attack on Deirdre Wood was so unpleasantly personal, the popular press was made to look both mean and silly. Having invented its own caricature of the "loony left" and having failed to make it stick on the Labour candidate, it was left with little to say.

The Labour campaign managers managed to promote, among those sections of the media that like to think of themselves as fair-minded, a curious new consensus about their candidate. "She's not really a left-winger," it went. "All those old chestnuts — invitations to Sinn Féin, voting to break the law, supporting the anti-police line — that's all standard stuff these days in London Labour circles. Doesn't mean a thing! Deirdre just had to go along with it to get selected."

If this is true it indicates that Labour is in even worse trouble than it admits. But everybody's attention during the campaign was misdirected. What this version failed to take account of was the real political record of Deirdre Wood — not the vote on the headline issues, but the way she has exercised power in the Inner London Education Authority. Nobody seems to realize that she has in fact had considerably more power over the last six years than most MPs ever have: direct influence over a budget of £1 billion a year, and over the educational life-chances of thousands of young people.

She carried a heavy responsibility for the financial crisis and the chaotic state of industrial relations that afflicts ILEA — with cuts due to be made next week, and more than 1,000 children being sent home from Greenwich schools every week. But — to the great frustration of the Alliance — nobody in the media showed much interest in the political case against Deirdre Wood. They were too busy debating whether the personal case could be made to stick.

The Alliance was certainly helped by the personal element. It was not the Deirdre Factor, though, but the Rosie Factor. Early in January I reported to friends that Rosie thought she could win. We did not share her confidence. We reckoned without her extraordinary pluck, persistence and popularity. Our canvassers came in with sopping clothes as the one about the dustman ("voted Labour all my life") who has called his new dog Rosie. It helps a bandwagon along no end when all the activists fall in love with their candidate.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

Michael Kinsley

Do women need this open door?

Washington
On a recent visit to London, I was taken for a drink at the Carlton Club. It is decorated like a shrine to the Goddess Thatcher (huge oil painting over the stairway, bust on the way to the bar, and so on). Yet, with the exception of herself, it does not have woman members. Apparently this is not regarded as especially anomalous.

Here in America, where a female head of government remains virtually unimaginable, we are way ahead of you on the club front. This month the top court of New York State upheld a city ordinance requiring the snooty gentlemen's clubs of Manhattan to admit women as members.

It's tempting to say that the women who engineered this legal triumph should be condemned, as punishment, to spend every hour for the rest of their lives eating overcooked beef in surroundings of stifling gloom while listening to some half-stewed, self-important bore recount the exploits of the 1937 Princeton football squad.

But of course the activists on this issue claim that men's clubs are not solely devoted to such pleasures. They assert that these institutions are cauldrons of free-masonry (or "networking", as we now call it) among the power elite, where deals are done, connections made and earthly achievements rewarded. Therefore the clubs' men-only policies are keeping women from reaching the pinnacles. Perhaps. But even so, this campaign strikes me as an exercise in missing the point.

The usual argument against using the civil-rights battering ram to break down this particular barricade is threefold. First is the American constitutional right to freedom of association. If white male Protestants wish to eat lunch only with one another, up to a point that is their privilege. Second, rights aside, there is a limit to what government can achieve or ought to attempt in the way of restructuring society. You can't "legislate morality", the saying goes. Third, how can you dismantle these bastions of cultural supremacy without destroying the institutions where other groups — women, blacks, Jews — gather for mutual succour and support?

On the other hand, it's certainly true that harmless male bonhomie is not at that goes on at these

places. During my brief career as an editor in New York, I was hired over lunch at the Century Club, survived an attempt to fire me during a board meeting at the University Club, and was gently informed that I might be happier elsewhere over drinks back at the Century. So civilized.

The fact that these are businesses as well as social institutions is the legal wedge being used to open them to women. Critics note that corporations often pay for club meals and dues, then deduct them as a business expense. The indisputable point is that the clubs can't have it both ways: if they are private and social, their activities shouldn't be tax-deductible.

America's Civil Rights Act specifically exempts private clubs. But the Supreme Court held three years ago that the Jaycees, a broad-based organization of businessmen, could be required to admit women under a state civil-rights act.

Ironically, the more genuinely elite a club is, the more protected it is from the law. The Supreme Court emphasized that the Jaycees weren't really exclusive at all, except for excluding women. Yet the truly exclusive clubs are the ones that excite the most ire from women who want in, and this is where I get doubtful. What kind of constipated egalitarian vision is it that dreams of private clubs just as critics imagine them to be, and just as exclusive — with one exception?

The women's movement always has been torn about whether the proper goal is to remake society or to get an equal share in society as it now exists. It's not an easy question. But surely the gratuitous elitism of these absurd institutions that sit and sort people according to some pompous standards of clubbability ought to be as easy enough to reject completely.

As women advance in the world, sexual barriers will continue to topple. The question is whether the world will really be a better place when self-defined "top" women can sit around exclusive clubs eating rare breast of squab in raspberry vinegar, drinking Perrier, and swapping stories about the Yale field hockey team of 1983.

The author is editor of *The New Republic*.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

TALKING OF TACTICS

The air above Greenwich is noisy with the complaining whine of two major party machines finding excuses for failed campaigns. They agree on little except that tactical voting is a bad thing. They imply that somehow democracy has been let down.

No such thing has happened. The dismal moans about bandwagons and opinion polls do more than suggest that the Conservative and Labour parties are overattached to the certainties of the past. They insult the intelligence of the electorate.

Greenwich showed voters doing precisely what a democratic system equips them to do: make a choice. To listen to the defeated candidates, you might imagine that electoral law prescribed a vote only for the party of a voter's first choice. In general that would seem a good principle and in practice that will be the decisive motive for the vast majority of voters. But there is nothing to say that voters should not temporarily set that principle aside in order to vote against something they dislike, where that dislike outweighs their like for the candidate of their first choice.

In three-party politics that choice is always open and as legitimate as any other. What the major parties really dislike is that their pitches — and both Labour's Mrs Wood and the Tories Mr Antcliffe are reflections of difficulties which their parties suffer nationally — were ignored and rejected by large numbers of voters.

For Mr Kinnock the news from Greenwich is all bad. Evidence is growing that Labour support in the country at large has peaked, at least for this parliament. Deirdre Wood's candidacy symbolised

perhaps the most intractable of the reasons for that. Up against an able Alliance performer, a member of the London left cannot disavow past stances on Sinn Féin, NATO, black sections, or anything else. Such a candidate cannot hope to stress the more straightforward issues to which voters are clearly responding. Moderate left-of-centre voters — less solidly loyal to old allegiances as each year goes by — are easily split off to the Alliance.

The process can easily be reversed by a Labour candidate who does not suffer from the handicaps that Miss Wood brought with her. In the Fulham by-election of last year, Mr Nick Raynsford fought a campaign based around the needs of the community. It was not so very different from the one which Mrs Barnes has just conducted. But he did not carry the hard-left label. He won.

Since he became leader, Mr Kinnock has reversed some of the damaging trends inside the Labour party. It is possible that he may be able to do something about this trend too. But he can do nothing before the next election about the large number of candidates whose policies won them the day in the selection conferences but will lose them the votes in the polling booth.

Above all, there is a persistent problem on defence. Poll after poll suggests that what ever worries the electorate may have about weapons, deterrence or the Atlantic Alliance few of them agree with the incoherent prescription of the Labour Party. A significant minority of people who describe themselves as Labour voters disagree with their chosen party's programme on this

issue. Mrs Wood apparently started from a position to the left of the official Labour line, and attempted to disguise this by mumbling that she was happy with party policy. It cannot have done her much good.

The Conservative candidate evoked a similar negative response, massively amplified by tactical switches late in the campaign. Mr Antcliffe's television performances suggested a hard-faced young man who had done well for himself out of the Thatcher years. It was not appealing in Greenwich. Again there was the open gulf between the qualities required by party activists choosing a candidate and voters choosing an MP.

It should not be surprising that Mrs Barnes caused the Conservative vote to collapse. She skillfully made the most of her local, personal appeal. She suggested compassion qualified by efficiency and freshness of approach. To the extent that she has laid the foundation of a strong personal vote in the constituency, she is justified in claiming that her victory was not won by tactical votes alone.

Simple precedent indicates that tactical voting in by-elections does not presage a national version in a general election. But it is possible to detect in the annoyance of the major parties the fear that it might be different next time. It is indeed not impossible that, as the frequency and visibility of tactical voting increases, such a change might happen. If it did, it might produce good or bad results. Voters might take more or less notice of polls, candidates' haircuts or manifesto footnotes. But whatever the effect, it would not be less democracy.

ACCOUNTANT, BE CREATIVE

"The main economic problem for television broadcasters throughout the world is that there is too little money. Income, whether from licence fees, advertising, government grants or private investment, will not be sufficient to cover all the aspirations of programme-makers."

Sound words. Not exactly breathtaking, for, after all, who is there who does not complain sometimes of "too little money"? Who is there whose aspirations are all met? But, in a way, those words were the herald of a revolution. The time was September 1984. The speaker was Mr Michael Checkland, then Director of Resources for BBC television, who is now the first accountant (however much he may dislike the tag) to occupy the top editorial job in British broadcasting.

The very fact that the new Director General had, in 1984, to utter such apparent truisms is an indicator of the deep-seated problems of the industry. At that time the general view within the BBC was that the Corporation was good, that goodness should expand, and that money and aspirations should be matched in an eternal holy state, something akin to a Hollywood marriage.

Today a more realistic view has at last begun to emerge. The intellectual debate on the role of the BBC, for all that it was characterised by Mr Checkland in a recent job-

claiming speech as "terrace hooliganism", has been an essential precursor to his success in winning that job.

Whether he takes advantage of the new climate remains to be seen. Will he be, in the best possible sense, a really creative accountant?

One touchstone will be the response to the green paper on the future of radio, published just a few days before his appointment. Almost alone in the industrialised world Britain has prevented people from trying to meet local public requirements for radio in all their variety. Now at last a government proclaims free competition as an ideal general policy: now at last the broadcasting establishment feels compelled to welcome it. But there is still a long road ahead.

For example, the green paper quotes the Peacock Report on general principles but then proposes to set up a new comfortable duopoly in frequency planning, even though the short comings of the same arrangement in television were, rightly, a major target of Peacock's criticism.

The government proposes to tell applicants for radio franchises that they cannot engage in "cherry-picking" — that is, serve only profitable areas. But if remote areas are unprofitable it is clear that they should get the full range of services that a city would support. What other services within the

BBC could be provided for the same subsidy cost?

The government thinks it knows that the nation wants more national radio networks. Maybe that is true, but how exactly does it know? The government could auction the frequencies in each urban area and wait to see whether a national network is created voluntarily. Again there is a clear cost in not doing so. The use of frequency space for networking, must necessarily deny that space to a local or regional station.

The immediate reaction to the choice of the new Director General has been to worry about his lack of editorial experience. This may be less of a problem than is thought. He needs to make the right senior appointments. He comes with considerable good will. The best of his journalists now know that their freedoms are not protected only by the man who will stand up to Mr Tebbit (their new chairman has robust enough credentials in this respect) but by the man who will squeeze the most electronic cameras and satellite links out of every licence payer's pound.

The greater worry may turn out instead to be his accountant's caution. He has the opportunity to look critically at every aspect of the BBC, to decide what genuinely is its business and what, in any sensible world, ought not to be. Let boldness be his friend.

FOURTH LEADER

A quite exceptionally intrepid burglar recently stole the wig and robes of a judge, a moment before His Honour was due to go into court; it happened at Exeter. The intrepidity is self-evident, and Shakespeare had a word for it: "That's a valiant feat that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion". What we don't understand is what the thief thought he could do with the judicial trappings.

Being law-abiding folk, we have not spent much time in court, but we have a distinct impression that judges have robes different from those worn by lawyers, clerks of the court, ushers and the like; we think their wigs also are in a category apart. If so, there can hardly be much of a trade in receiving stolen goods, easily recognizable as they must be, quite apart from the likelihood that the miscreant, if caught, would probably get a whacking sentence for contempt of court on top of what he got for robbery. (He couldn't really say the things

had fallen off the back of a lorry, could he?) But that is not the most interesting aspect of this business. The judge, very properly mindful of Magna Carta — "To no man will we sell, to no man deny, to no man delay, justice or right" — hurried into court, presumably after a frantic but fruitless search for the missing regalia. Seating himself on the bench, he explained what had happened, and announced that in the circumstances he would be obliged "to sit naked".

That, it seems, is a technical term; when a judge says he is going to sit naked, he means only that he is going to sit in mufti. We hesitate to say that it is a pity, lest we should incur a sentence for contempt ourselves. But to deflect judicial wrath, we would like to recall Carlyle's interesting suggestion (it is in *Sartor Resartus*) that the members of the House of Commons should sit — literally — altogether unclothed.

Contemplation of this possibility (we have just been contemplating it, so we know)

induces a profound sense of depression. All the same, there may be something in it. Parliament, judges, bishops, company directors, trades union leaders, headmasters, generals, all those who, in one way or another, can boss the rest of us around, should be obliged to do their bossing — or, we think the word is "starkers". The reason is that, stripped of their props, they would become like us (since we are all the same under our clothes), and would at last be able to see things from our point of view: *in pelle veritas*.

He would be a very bold MP (or perhaps a very handsome one) who introduced a Private Members' Bill along these lines. But if the idea caught on, it might — it would — revolutionize our national life. Perhaps that judge at Exeter will turn out to have said more than he intended. As for the thief who started it all, we shall risk yet another sentence for contempt and say that we hope he gets away with it.

Why warheads need testing

From Mr Richard Worcester

Sir, With the election coming up political attitudes to a nuclear CTB (comprehensive test ban) are a major matter. In this connection it is a historical fact that just about every US and British warhead was under a cloud of uncertainty, to use the official phrase, during the 1958-61 voluntary test ban, since nobody could offer convincing explanations of the various sensitivities of weapons to corrosion and other defects. It took years of testing after the ban was lifted to develop and restore confidence, one by one, in the 32 designs currently comprising the Nato deterrent.

One example was the discovery of corrosion in the fissile material used in the Polaris W47 warhead. It was found that the W47 was not one-point safe — i.e., that it failed to pass the test by which, if inadvertently armed and fused (a million-to-one contingency) detonation should not exceed 10 tons TNT equivalent. Instead it gave a fearsome 100 tons TNT. So Livermore Laboratory developed the W47V1, a mechanical modification which they thought was capable of making the sub-system safe ("safer" it).

Next was found an arming flaw, due to friction caused by chemical reactions and possibly chemicals merging with adjoining plastic. Radiographs of the W47 stockpile and a more powerful driving motor appeared to provide a solution, until further deterioration was found.

Then the upgraded warhead was developed as W47V2 Mod.2, retaining mechanical "safer", until it, too, would have made the weapon useless. More fixing and testing were interspersed with failures. Just why friction builds up with age defied explanation.

Finally it was found that even the twice-revised "safer" still delivered 100 unwanted tons of energy. A lucky test showed just about full power and the further refined "safer" was shown one-point safe. So Livermore said, "Let's hold it there" and the entire stockpile was converted to a W47V2 Mod.3, with lingering doubts. Had the corrosion been found in a nuclear testing freeze, doubtless they would have just added extra plutonium and prayed — except that this action might well have been denied under a freeze in most CTB proposals.

It's true the British Polaris warhead is not identical to the W47 or, to another Polaris warhead, the W58, but the UK had every incentive to stay close to the US work or face the cost and scheduling in Nevada of a dozen separate tests.

Contrary to the belief of politicians and others that a CTB would lead to fewer nuclear weapons, any such treaty would mean that many more weapons were needed to ensure that the minimal second-strike deterrent would be credible with such unreliable weapons. The facts speak volumes on the need to keep testing.

Yours truly,

RICHARD WORCESTER,

Sussex House,

37-38 Parkside, SW19.

Oxford Union debate

From Mr T. H. Richardson

Sir, I am surprised that the Dean of the Faculty of Laws of the University of London should make an elementary mistake (February 23) in interpreting an Act of Parliament. Section 13 of the 1986 Education Act provides that universities must ensure that a person "is not denied" the facilities referred to. That is not to say that any person must be invited. Mr Simon Stevens invited Mr Gerry Adams to speak for the reasons given in his letter (which may be good or bad); he was not compelled to do so by the Act. In other words, if Mr Adams had not been invited Mr Stevens would not have been in breach of the statute any more than he is for not inviting the Dean of the Faculty of Laws of London, nor indeed myself, a humble bachelor thereof.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. RICHARDSON,

College Chambers,

92/94 Borough Road,

Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

From Mr Ray Honeyford

Sir, It might be inferred from the letter (February 23) of Mr Simon Stevens, President of the Oxford Union Society, that he regarded me as an "extremist speaker".

I have never been, am not and never would be a member of any organisation which any national person could describe as "extremist".

Far worse than being described as an "extremist" would be to be linked in any way with Mr Gerry Adams. I find Mr Adams's views of the cruel, inhuman and murderous IRA utterly repugnant.

Yours faithfully,

RAY HONEYFORD,

14 Milton Road,

Freestwich, Manchester.

R & D hobbyhorses on false trail

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, Despite your own contributions (leading articles, February 19 and 21) and those of the noble Lords, the perennial debate about research and national prosperity shows little sign of advancing beyond the ritual exercising of a number of worn-out hobbyhorses.

There is no virtue in spending large sums of public money on development projects which yield no return, like Concorde or the British nuclear power programme. The OECD's chief economist, David Henderson, described those projects in his Reith lectures as two of the three worst economic decisions in history. Such ventures may inflate the Gerd (Gross expenditure on research and development) but by diverting, skilled resources (and, be it said, distracting public attention) from more worthwhile activities, they have a powerfully depressive effect upon the gross domestic product.

Nor is there much to be gained, in economic terms, from messing around with the machinery of government. The closets of Whitehall are already sufficiently cluttered with dusty reports on science, technology and innovation from a stage army of post-war advisory councils, central policy staffs and the like. One more council can only prolong the procession.

It needs to be said — and said repeatedly — that a country's prosperity in a competitive world depends upon the speed and accuracy with which that country matches all its productive resources to the constantly changing patterns of world market opportunities. In that dynamic matching process market research is as important as any; there are strong grounds for attributing part, at least, of Japanese post-war success to the systematic and painstaking work of the large trade research staff of their Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

It is certainly important that the national research effort should be healthy; but that is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for economic health. The function of research is to produce new information, and information is a commodity in international trade. It can be bought in.

The most important thing we have to learn is, ironically, the thing we used to teach: to see our problems clearly; to see them whole; and to clear our minds of cant. It is unfortunate that some of those who pontificate about science do not apply the same standards of intellectual rigour to the task as they would use in the laboratory. Were they to do so, they would perceive that the best way of improving the country's prospects is to find out what the world wants; which of those wants we can best supply; and get on

with the job of matching our supply to their demands.

Everything else depends on that. The world pace of technical change cannot be contained. A wise government would refuse the seductions of lavish spending on bureaucratically chosen prestige projects of no commercial significance and allow the intellectual capital thus released to find the slots in the market where it could earn the highest returns.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN SMITH,

Room 501,

The Bonnington Hotel,

92 Southampton Row, WC1.

From Mr J. F. R. Paton

Sir, In response to your leading article, "No answer" (February 21), regarding the "real" lack of financial support towards British science and research: I am a PhD student in my final year at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and about to take the biggest decision of my life. Do I stay in academia pursuing my cardiovascular studies or do I opt out and find an alternative?

The proposed pay rise for university teachers is 23 per cent over three years, which boils down to be on a par with the rate of inflation, considering it is over a year late and includes no back pay. The proposed pay rise comes only after a national cut in the number of university teachers. For example, 12 academic teaching staff will be axed from the pre-clinical departments at this hospital alone.

To make matters worse, the Government has instructed the Medical Research Council (MRC) to pay this increment of 23 per cent, which only adds insult to injury, since a large proportion of grants funding basic research come from the same source. MRC grants are hard enough to obtain in the first place.

In addition, the number of lectureship posts advertised are negligible and those that do surface are only short term.

Basic research is absolutely vital to man's existence in today's environment. In the same issue of *The Times* I read an encouraging report concerning Alzheimer's disease, a brain disorder killing millions a year in the USA.

It is well known that cardiac diseases kill more people in the UK per year than in any other European country. It seems that unless you are a virologist studying AIDS you do not stand a chance of convincing the Government that your research, however basic, is fundamental to the maintenance of our health.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN F. R. PATON,

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine,

Department of Physiology,

Rowland Hill Street, NW3.

February 23.

'Silly' Russell?

From Mr D. R. Ellison

Sir, As one who admired Bertrand Russell and enjoyed reading him, I protest at the unjust attack upon him by Kenneth Minogue who, whilst in search of lost stupidity (feature, February 12), claims to have found in Russell a supreme example of "sheer, unmitigated rip-roaring silliness".

Your correspondent sought to fortify his immoderate claim by stating that Russell once defined truth as "what the police require you to tell". Russell did not "define" truth. As a philosopher and logician, he would certainly not have been so unguarded in his use of words as to speak of defining truth, since truth is *sui generis* and therefore does not admit of definition.

In the summer of 1938, Russell spent a term in Oxford as a guest lecturer. He gave a series of lectures on "Language and Fact", the substance of which formed the basis of one of his most important

philosophical works: *An Inquiry Into Meaning and Truth*, published in 1940.

I attended some of those lectures, at one of which a member of the audience asked Russell how he would have answered Plato's question: "What is truth?" With a mischievous twinkle in his eye, he said that he would have been tempted to say that truth is what the police require you to believe. Why must your correspondent ruin that delicious *mot* by misquoting it?

He goes on to suggest Russell was the sort of person who engaged in "mispronunciation, malapropism, the misuse of technical words..." I should be surprised if your correspondent could produce from the entire range of Russell's published works one malapropism or one example of a technical word misused.

Yours,

DONALD ELLISON,

27 Wheatstap Lane,

Fulham, SW6.

February 14.

Village life

From Colonel M. H. Cobb

Sir, Your report (February 18) that Egerton Trust plans to construct a retirement village appeared only hours after we had had a discussion in our dearmy synod on "The Church in a changing village".

In order to preserve the family in a village, it was unanimously concluded that family village life can only continue if the young and the old are integrated and share in the activities of the village. The excellent article by Barbara

Toner (January 2) touched on this problem as it affects an alive village.

If the idea of a retirement village catches on in this country, there will be losses not just to our existing villages but to the flourishing spin-offs of village life — in particular the school and the church and all that they imply.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL COBB,

Knights Cottage,

Plymtree,

Cullompton, Devon.

February 18.

Fields for scope

From Mr George Curtis

Sir, When my father started farming in 1948 we employed eight men on less than 250 acres. Grain was handled in bags after being threshed from the sheaf. I can recall carrying them up a steep staircase to an upper floor granary all day. You knew you had done a day's work by its end.

Sugar beet was still a labour-intensive crop. Its post-World War I introduction to this country was supported largely because it provided jobs, but what jobs! I clearly recall the feeling of impending doom as one took the hoe out to start chopping and singling.

The crop used to be ploughed out of the ground, giving around 30,000 roots per acre, each of which had to be picked up, have its top knocked off with a knife, and then be thrown into a cart or trailer for conveyance to the clamp, whence it would be forked by hand into a lorry. The farmyard muck went out in much the same way, by hand forking.

By the grace of God, and the ingenuity of man, the modern

farmer is no longer a beast of burden, and a very good job too. Mr Bradley's misplaced nostalgia (feature, February 11) for a life he patently never knew envisages, so far as I can see, the infestation of the countryside by the green-welted brigade, all living the Good Life.

Mitterrand may well speak of the desirability of "a certain kind of rural civilisation", but the best hope the British countryside now has lies in the survival of farmers in reasonable numbers as part-timers.

As a tenant farmer on under 100 acres I am now, it appears, classified as a rare breed, if not an endangered species. My colleagues and I are most hurt by your suggestion (leading article, February 7) that we be replaced by actors "who would don smocks, chew straws, and wave at the passing tourists from their Potemkin villages". Though peasant I may be, and an ass I possibly am, I am damned if an ass I will become for the amusement of Mr Bradley. Yours faithfully,

GEORGE CURTIS,

Dalebrook House,

Dedham, Colchester, Essex.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 28 1900

The surrender of General Cronje with 4,000 troops provided more than a victor's usual satisfaction, for General Roberts had inflicted defeat on an enemy which exactly nine years before had routed the British at Majuba Hill. The *Times* was lavish in its coverage of the Boer War and gave nearly a page solely to messages from its correspondents in Europe. Our man in Paris was Henri de Blois.

[THE BOER WAR.] FOREIGN OPINION.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

PARIS, FEB. 27. There are two different ways of receiving a piece of good news and of heightening the pleasure which it causes. You may either seek out those who rejoice with you, or those whom the ground for your satisfaction irritates and who, unable to master their disappointment, cover their mouths with their hands in order to conceal the gnashing of their teeth. When, at 11 o'clock this morning, the telephone brought me the news of General Cronje's surrender, this glorious revenge for Majuba Hill, I hurried out of doors, and I beg my readers to excuse me if I recall my impressions during this too short journey across Paris.

I shall surprise no one in saying that I first came across especially those who grated their teeth, and they were, indeed, far the easier to discover, as they are much the more numerous. It was not perhaps a particularly lofty sentiment, my joy at this spectacle, but one should have lived here since the beginning of the war and climbed daily, so to speak, over the kopjes of lies, insults, invective, insinuation, and calumnies of the daily *Lloyd's* Press, a Press which discovered daily fresh charges against the English, talked of the massacre of defenceless soldiers, and related that the heroic British troops were driven to the front at the points of their officers' swords. One should have heard a certain Deputy exclaim: "We don't want mercenaries to defend French soil." One should have seen the countless and learned discussions on the question of a peace vainly solicited by the English, on the certainty of the loss of Cape Colony and Natal, on the alleged secret arming of the Basutos and Zulus and Matabeles, described, of course, as a crime against civilisation. Yes; one must have experienced all this to understand the effect produced by the victory that has just wiped out Majuba, Colenso, and the battles on the Tugela. Doubtless, no one here, even among the most enthusiastic, believes the war ended, but the strategic genius of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener, and the indomitable persistence and endurance of Generals Buller, White and French, and Colonel Baden-Powell have gloriously rehabilitated the British race, whose cool and persevering courage has penetrated the goal of its colonies — those colonies whose devotion to the mother-country is the most striking homage rendered to its wisdom, justice, and humanity.

It is now allowable to speak out and protest against the attacks which for months have been made on England, the sarcasms and insults, to be explained only, though not justified, by ignorance. It is inconceivable what foolish schemes the gloomy beginning of the campaign inspired in these men. Regular armies were to disappear and to be superseded by a militia such as the Boers represented. But already the text is altered. "The Boers cannot succeed because, having no regular army, they cannot fight in an open country." General Cronje's surrender has nipped in the bud the idea of substituting for standing armies improvised levies. Of course, too, the apostles of peace are sermonizing. "Honour is vindicated and the combatants should shake hands." ...

Let me now be allowed the pleasure of citing two journals which I rarely quote, but my reason for now doing so will be apparent. "The *Gaulois* of this morning says: — 'The English sappers and miners are making intrenchments round Cronje's camp, the ring of investment is being gradually tightened, the artillery almost at close quarters is firing right and day on the heroic handful of Boers, yet nobody thinks of surrendering. Cronje and his men are awaiting death or deliverance with admirable severity and coolness. ... All hope, however, is not yet lost, for the reinforcements so impatiently awaited by General Cronje made their appearance on the Modder on February 25 under the command of General de Wet. A first attempt has been made to extricate the division hemmed in, but, according to the English despatches, it has failed. ... A second attempt appears, therefore, imminent, if it has not already taken place, and who knows whether the English are not at this moment obliged to draw back to the left bank of the river.' ... Thus, by a not unusual method, the despatches are so distorted and mixed up with fanciful hypotheses as to forecast the victory, not of the English, but of the Boers. ..."

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Oxbridge doubles

From the Reverend J. S. Reynolds

Sir, I have been waiting for additions to Mr Buton's interesting list of learned brothers (February 14) — mainly Cambridge men — who have been college heads. May I contribute George Abbot, Master of University College, Oxford, 1597-1610/11, thereafter Archbishop of Canterbury, and Robert Abbot, Master of Balliol, 1609/10-1615. Briefly, Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. REYNOLDS,

Lindon Lodge,

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1599.8 (-1.9)FT-SE 100
1979.2 (-1.0)Bargains
45040 (50617)USM (Datastream)
151.68 (+0.86)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5465 (+0.0070)W German mark
2.8247 (+0.0182)Trade-weighted
69.9 (+0.5)Tottenham
kicks back
into profit

Britain's only quoted football club, Tottenham Hotspur, is improving its performance on and off the field.

Better gates helped the club turn a loss of £456,000 into a £17,000 profit in the first half of the year - which took in nine matches. Although the club's activities in the transfer market left it trailing £1.1 million, there was a big profit boost from the sale of its training ground at Chesham, Hertfordshire, leaving it with an overall profit of £3.5 million. This compares with a previous loss of £28,000.

Tottenham's second-leg Littlewoods Cup match, against Arsenal could be worth £150,000 if it opens the way to Wembley, boosting prospects for the rest of the year. But the shares, which were sold at 100p, were 2p down at 86p.

Sedgwick up

Sedgwick Group, Britain's largest insurance broker, earned pre-tax profits of £135.4 million in 1986, compared with £124.3 million in 1985. Earnings per share rose from 21.4p to 21.9p. The group is recommending a final dividend of 8p a share, making 12p for the year against 11p last time.

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Burton bonds

The Burton stores group is planning to refinance its short-term working capital needs through the issue of £100 million of commercial paper, with a sterling or dollar issue option. The paper, which could be issued from late March, has been given top ratings by Standard and Poor's and Moody's.

£200m call

BAT Industries, the tobacco, stores and paper group, is launching a £200 million commercial paper programme, the second-largest sterling-denominated programme announced by a British company. The notes, with maturities ranging from seven to 364 days, are to fund short-term cash demands and replace other debt as it matures.

Company data

The Companies Registration Office is test-running facsimile transmission of requested documents and also plans to provide computerized information on firms on its books. Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said.

Gas division

IC Gas Association has given shareholders details of its proposed division into two companies, Calor Group and Contib Holdings.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2223.71 (+7.03)
Dow Jones	2223.71 (+7.03)
Nikkei Dow	20421.66 (-32.24)
Hong Kong	2877.87 (+34.27)
Amsterdam: Gen	254.1 (-0.80)
Sydney: AO	1584.8 (+29.4)
Frankfurt	1711.7 (-11.8)
Brussels	4168.74 (+10.32)
Paris: CAC	429.10 (+4.70)
Zurich: S&K Gen	530.10 (-2.80)
London: FT	1599.8 (-1.9)
FT 100	1979.2 (-1.0)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	11%
3-month Interbank	10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	10 1/4-10 1/2%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate	7 1/2%
Federal Funds	6%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.48-5.45%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	£/\$
£/DM	£/DM
£/Sfr	£/Sfr
£/Pfr	£/Pfr
£/Yen	£/Yen
£/Ind	£/Ind
£/Sfr	£/Sfr
£/Yen	£/Yen
£/Ind	£/Ind
£/Sfr	£/Sfr
£/Yen	£/Yen
£/Ind	£/Ind

Trade figures aided by pound's fall

Freeze brings
£73m surplus

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Britain's balance of payments started the year in the black with a surplus in January of £73 million seasonally adjusted on current account.

The figures suggest that the fall in the pound is helping to close the gap on visible trade. But the estimated surplus on invisible trade has been revised downwards for the second time in the past three months, mainly because of lower-than-expected receipts from the EEC and lower earnings on foreign invest-

ments by the insurance industry.

The current account for December has been revised down from a surplus of £38 million to a deficit of £287 million.

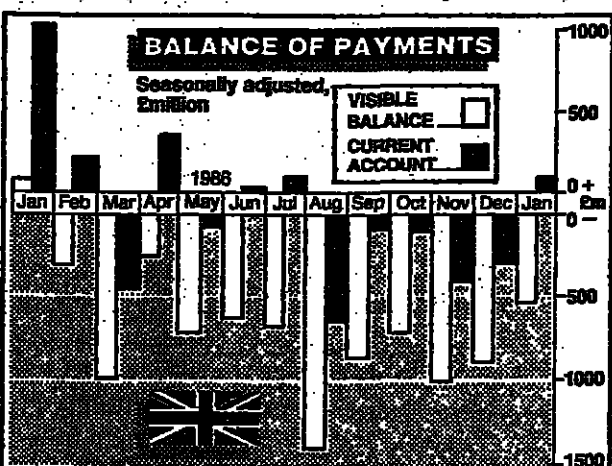
Both exports and imports were lower last month, partly because of the bad weather. Exports were £6,204 billion and imports £6,731 billion, reducing the trade deficit from £887 million in December to £527 million.

Mr Gavyn Davies, of

Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, said: "The January trade figures are much better than expected but this is probably largely because of the weather. If the February figures are equally good, we shall start to take notice."

The bad weather may have affected exports - for which figures are collected mid-month - more than imports which are tallied at the end of the month, so understating the improvement in trade.

The surplus on trade in oil recovered last month after pipeline repairs and helped by higher prices. The January surplus, at £371 million, compared with £266 million the previous month, was the highest since the first quarter of last year.

Greenwich result
helps sterling

The pound was firmer on the Greenwich by-election result and the trade figures.

Dealers concluded that Greenwich made a Labour government less likely and sterling opened up 0.3 on the previous close at 69.7 in terms of its trade-weighted index.

By the close it was at 69.9 having gained 1/4 cent against the dollar to \$1.5465 and 2 1/2 pence against the mark to DM2.8247.

Money markets did not react to the rise in sterling and 3-month money in the inter-bank market, which is one of

the bellwethers of base rate changes, remained around 10 1/4 per cent.

No signals were given by the Bank of England.

The dollar fell on the increase in the US trade deficit, finishing in London at around DM1.8250. This compared with a high point earlier in the day of DM1.8350.

Selling was still restrained by the fear of central bank intervention in support of the Paris agreement last weekend to keep exchange rates roughly where they are now.

US deficit widens to \$15bn

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The US merchandise trade deficit widened again in January, rising to \$14.8 billion from \$10.7 billion in December. But analysts said the figures were in line with market expectations and did not put heavy selling pressure on the dollar.

The trade surpluses earned by West Germany and Japan were lower last month, but showed no reduction after seasonal factors were taken into account.

West Germany's trade surplus fell from a record

DM11.6 billion in December to DM7.2 billion, leaving the current account in surplus by DM4.9 billion. But the Statistics Office said if seasonal corrections were made, the current surplus in January would have been unchanged.

The Japanese trade surplus dropped from \$10.2 billion to \$5.7 billion but reached a record level after seasonal adjustment. Government officials and economists predicted a fall from now on.

The US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker predicted

earlier this week that the \$170 billion US trade deficit would soon begin to turn round.

Revised figures yesterday revealed a deficit in December of \$12.7 billion.

Last month's trade figures continued the pattern of rising imports and falling exports. The US remained in deficit with all of its important trading partners, including Japan, with an increased deficit of \$5.16 billion and Western Europe, with a deficit of \$2.4 billion.

Saga seeks
approval of
Snorre field

The Norwegian government, which is limiting development of oil discoveries in its sector of the North Sea, in response to Opec requests to force up oil prices, has been asked to approve the development of a new field which could produce about 200,000 barrels of oil a day, equivalent to one-fifth of current Norwegian output.

The Snorre field has been discovered by Saga Petroleum, which wants to bring it on stream in the mid-1990s. It has considerable natural gas reserves and Saga is attempting to interest British Gas in buying them. British Gas has so far said it is not interested.

M&S plans shops
for Hong Kong

By Anne Warden

Marks and Spencer is planning to open a number of stores in Hong Kong, as part of its policy to expand its Far Eastern ventures.

In a first move, announced in London yesterday, M&S has handed over to Sir Terence Conran's BHS - formerly British Home Stores and now part of Storehouse - its old trading agreement with Dodwell Stores, part of the Inchcape international trading conglomerate. No payment is involved.

Dodwell has been selling St Michael's goods from its six Hong Kong outlets, established 20 years ago. Neither side was saying yesterday how much the Dodwell's deal was worth.

M&S intends to start by selling underwear, cosmetics, and possibly food.

The company's representa-

tative in Hong Kong has still to negotiate sites for the stores, which will be small, a spokesman in London said. It was not possible to say how much M&S would be investing.

Dodwell, which has traded in Hong Kong for 20 years as Dodwell International Buying Office, is BHS's biggest supplier.

Buying is one area Inchcape has said it wants to concentrate its world resources on. The Far East contributed half of Inchcape's £46 million pre-tax profits in 1985.

Dodwell merged last month with Inchcape's other three Hong Kong holding companies into a new unit, Inchcape Pacific, of which Mr Charles Mackay is chairman. The other three are Inchcape Hong Kong, Gilman and Gibb Livingstone.

Buckley shareholders
thwart Cole's ambitions

By Our City Staff

Mr Tony Cole, chairman of Bestwood, the property and financial services group, yesterday failed to win a seat in the boardroom of Buckley's Brewery, in which he holds a 27 per cent stake.

A move to have Mr Jasper Chatterback, a Whitbread nominee, removed from the board of Buckley's, based at Llanelli, Dyfed, was also defeated.

Mr Cole had called a special meeting of Buckley's shareholders to vote on the two proposals.

But because no shareholder had proposed the resolution for his own election, the issue could not be formally put to the meeting.

However, the Buckley's directors decided to ask shareholders how they would have voted.

This resulted in 9.2 million votes against Mr Cole's appointment and 4.3 million in favour.

A similar number opposed the removal of Mr Chatterback.

After the meeting, Mr Colin Thomas, managing director of Buckley's, said: "We thought it fair to test the views of shareholders to see whether they wanted Mr Cole on the board."

"Obviously if they had voted in favour, we would have had to take note. I have no idea what he intends to do now."



Senhor Dilon Fumaro: European tour starts in London

Brazil offers
new strategy

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Senhor Dilon Fumaro, the Brazilian Finance Minister, met top United States officials in closed session yesterday to present a new strategy on debt.

On Monday, he will see Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, during a week-long tour of Europe, in which he plans to seek direct help from the governments of the industrialized nations.

Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, and Mr Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Board chairman, have gone to unusual lengths in recent days to calm market fears that the debt crisis is again boiling over, triggered by Brazil's decision to suspend payments on its \$108 billion (£68.87 billion) foreign debt.

But Senhor Fumaro, following consultations with Argentina and other large nations, is apparently seeking a political commitment from the industrialized nations for "new international financing mechanism"

isms" that will allow debtor nations greater growth.

Before leaving Brazil, Senhor Fumaro gave a strong hint of what he planned to propose. He had little inclination to negotiate another temporary debt restructuring plan but instead would seek a more lasting solution.

US officials have stated strongly their opposition to a significant revision in the West's debt strategy, which revolves around the \$29 billion programme for the 15 most heavily indebted nations proposed at Seoul, Korea.

There was speculation that Senhor Fumaro would urge governments to consider assuming a portion of the commercial obligations of debtor nations, that they exchange some debt for bonds backed by the World Bank, and that they develop mechanisms to protect developing nations from sharp fluctuations in both oil prices and interest rates.

Venezuela debt pact

By Our Banking Correspondent

Negotiations to reschedule the debt of large Latin American borrowers went further yesterday when Venezuela reached agreement with commercial bank creditors to re-

vised figures yesterday revealed a deficit in December of \$12.7 billion.

Last month's trade figures continued the pattern of rising imports and falling exports. The US remained in deficit with all of its important trading partners, including Japan, with an increased deficit of \$5.16 billion and Western Europe, with a deficit of \$2.4 billion.

required to repay a total of \$1.35 billion in debt principal between 1987 and 1989, instead of \$3.35 billion.

Meanwhile, Argentina has devalued the austral by 6.49 per cent as Senhor Juan Sourrouille, the economy minister, warned on Wednesday, Argentina announced its trade balance during the first 10 months of 1986 has deteriorated to \$1.98 billion compared with \$4 billion.

Chemist in
takeover
talks

By Cliff Feltman

Underwoods, the retail chemist chain, was forced to announce it was in takeover talks yesterday after a sharp rise in its share price which is bound to lead to a Stock Exchange inquiry.

The shares had raced up from an overnight price of 188p to 228p, prompting the Underwood board to admit talks were taking place.

The shares closed at 237p, up 49p, valuing the business at just above £64 million.

There was immediate speculation about the mystery suitor. Superdrug's shares shot up 13p to 478p, but a suggestion in the stock market that the Combined English Stores group could be involved was shot down by the company. Woolworth was also tipped.

Mr Brian Kerner, chief executive of Underwoods, said he did not think there had been a leak about the talks.

However, a week ago the company switched its financial advisers from Morgan Grenfell - whose former corporate finance specialist, Mr Roger Seelig, is a non-executive director of Underwoods - to Lazard.

Mr Peter Grant, deputy chairman of Lazard, said the price movement was "disturbing" although he had no idea whether there had been a leak.

Underwoods came to the stock market in the autumn of 1985 in a share issue 22 times oversubscribed.

Wine tax plea

The increase in wine sales in Britain is slowing, according to the Wine and Spirit Association which joined the stream of drinks industry organizations calling on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, not to raise excise duties in next month's Budget.

Lloyds rides in
on target with
£700m profits

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the smallest of the British clearers, yesterday met City expectations with full-year pre-tax profits for 1986 of £700 million, up 25 per cent from the previous year's result of £561 million.

Most of the group's activities performed strongly, although start-up costs led to a heavy loss on the merchant banking and securities business.

Profits from the domestic banking operation leapt 74 per cent to £517 million after a 73 per cent increase in 1985. Mr Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said that although the number of competitors in the domestic retail market was growing fast, Lloyds' policy of market segmentation was paying off.

He added that there was no sign of a growing number of defaults among personal borrowers, despite the sharp increase in personal lending by banks.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said the group result had been achieved despite intense competition, and allowed a substantial improvement in the dividend paid to shareholders. The full-year dividend is being raised from 14p to 18p, an increase of 29 per cent. Earnings per share surged 40 per cent to 87p.

Lloyds Merchant Bank, the investment banking and securities operation, reported a £27 million loss due to heavy start-up and development costs.

Mr Pitman said the result was disappointing, but Lloyds had chosen not to buy large broking or jobbing businesses before Big Bang, but decided to develop the businesses in-house instead. Because of this, the loss could not be offset against income streams from existing businesses last year.

LMS also lost £2 million to £3 million on holdings of perpetual floating-rate notes and £7 million on trading in gilt-edged stock. It hopes, however, to move into profit this year with sharply lower costs.

Lloyds' increase in provisions against bad debts dropped 16 per cent compared with the previous year, from £257 million to £215 million. The rise in international provisions was down sharply by 25 per cent, but Lloyds said sovereign debt provisions had risen by £144 million. Lloyds has earned a further £5 billion with Latin American borrowers.

Sir Jeremy said Brazil's decision to suspend interest payments on \$68 million (£44 million) of commercial bank debt was a serious setback to solving the international debt problem, but one that could be resolved. Lloyds has £1.2 billion in loans to Brazil.

Other areas of the group's operations performed well, including a 157 per cent increase in Lloyds Bank Insurance Services profits to £36 million.

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Randsworth in
£60m takeover

By Ray Heath

The rapid expansion of the Randsworth Trust property and plant hire company under the bold leadership of Mr David Holland, a barrister, accelerated yesterday when the USM-listed group announced it was taking over the fully-listed London & Provincial Shop Centres property group. It can now be expected to obtain a full listing.

Randsworth, with a market capitalization of just under £20 million, has made an agreed bid of about £60 million for L&P, which has most of its office properties in Slough, Berkshire.

Randsworth is offering nine of its ordinary shares for every four L&P shares. Randsworth, one of the USM's star performers, rising from 21p last year, fell 30p to 163p on the announcement. At that price, each L&P share is valued at 36p, and the whole company at £59.29 million. L&P, however, surged 12p on the news to 340p.

The offer is being recommended by Mr Ronald Gerard, the chairman, and Mr

Bernard Derrick, the joint managing director.

But they suggest that Randsworth shareholders should accept either the cash alternative of 325p a share, which compared favourably with net assets of 350p a share, or the loan notes being offered in lieu of the cash bid, which give interest at London inter-bank overnight rate (Libor) and will be redeemable between September 1988 and December 1993.

Chase Investment Bank is underwriting the Randsworth shares issued in the bid at 144.5p a share.

The takeover is likely to lead to the promotion of Randsworth to the full board of the Stock Exchange, Mr Holland said yesterday, depending on Stock Exchange approval.

Mr Holland said L&P's asset would balance Randsworth's development programme, but he also expected to improve its performance. Profits of L&P more than halved from £2 million to £931,000 last year.

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Growth Funds	Postcode	Tel. No.	
Monthly Income Plan	My professional adviser is:		
Share Exchange Scheme			
Unit Linked, Pension Products			

STOCK MARKET

Guinness rises on talk of a takeover bid from overseas

By Michael Clark

Guinness, the drinks group, was again the subject of intense takeover speculation yesterday as the shares rallied another 14p to 377p on the back of a huge turnover.

There is a growing belief in the market that a sizeable stakebuilding exercise is now under way. A further 16 million shares had changed hands by the close of business last night, bringing the total number traded this week to 41.6 million – or nearly 5 per cent of the issued capital.

There was also a big turnover of the shares on the traded options market where no fewer than 13 million shares were riding on the May series alone.

All this week the market has been buzzing with speculation about a possible bid for the company from a rival overseas drinks group, anxious to make the most of the group's current predicament.

A couple of weeks ago there was talk that Mr John Elliott's Elders IXL, the Australian brewer, had built up a 3 per cent stake. There were also whispers that the American-based Anheuser-Busch, the world's biggest brewer, famous for its Budweiser brand, had been buying the shares and would launch a bid on Monday of 380p a share.

Much of the buying has originated from New York. The share price of Guinness now stands just 3p above the 331p level at which the shares were trading when the Department of Trade and Industry's investigators moved in on December 1, having been as low as 264p this year.

Investors appear to be taking a more positive line on the group. Worries about possible litigation from Argyll after losing in the battle for control of Distillers appear to be of secondary importance to investors. The benefits of the Distillers acquisition are continuing to filter through. The trading news from America is improving and Scotch whisky sales are up. Full-year figures, due next month, are expected to show pretax profits up from £241 million to £450 million.

Analysts are taking the view that despite the uncertainties, the downside is limited. The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre day with investors left wondering where the next bit of good news was coming from which would lift share prices to yet new peaks.

Turnover was running at much lower levels with the market choosing to discount the Greenwich by-election re-

sult, which, most dealers felt, was unlikely to deter Mrs Thatcher's General Election plans. The absence of buyers left share prices drifting throughout most of the session, but prices closed above their worst levels, helped by a firm start to trading on Wall Street.

The FT index of top 30 shares dipped below the 1,600 level after breaching it for the first time ever earlier in this week. It opened 6.3 down first thing, but was boosted a lead of 4.1 at about lunchtime, only to finish 1.9 lower at 1,599.8.

A similar rally around lunchtime by the broader based FT-SE 100 also ended in failure. But the fall of 9.5 at 3pm was reduced to just 1.0 at 1,979.2 by the close. The market is still displaying a firm undertone and most deal-

ers are convinced that the "footie" will burst through the 2,000 level before next month's Budget.

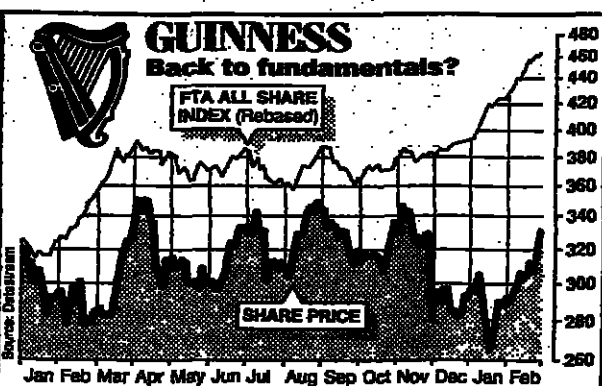
Government securities sported gains of up to 1/2p at the longer end despite the lack of initiative on the interest-rate front and news of another big date deficit.

Alpha stocks closed mixed. ICI fell a further 35p to £13.95 after more consideration of Thursday's figures which showed pretax profits topping £1 billion. Speculation that ICI was about to hit the acquisition trail was also doing the rounds with the chemical division of Chesebrough-Pond's, a subsidiary of Unilever, thought to be a likely target.

Profit-taking after this week's strong run also lopped another 30p from Glaxo at £15.98 and Wellcome 11p at 478p.

But there was selective support for the brewers following confirmation that restaurants will be allowed to serve drinks with meals throughout the day. Bass surged 23p to 888p. Grand Metropolitan 13p to 508p and Whitbread "A" 4p to 310p.

Thorn EMI advanced 10p to 609p ahead of a presentation soon in the US with fund managers. There is talk the



GUINNESS Back to fundamentals?

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

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Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

American buyers attempted to pick up about 2 million shares in the company. There are reports that two merchant banks, J Rothschild and Charterhouse, are putting together a bid for the mystery Americans. Some dealers claim the shares could soon be worth between 400p and 450p. Birmid, the lawnmower manufacturer and Potomac boiler group, slipped 5p to 255p, but have held up remarkably well since friendly talks with Hepworth Ceramic broke down on Wednesday. Hopes are high that Hepworth may now come back and make an aggressive bid, having gone to all the trouble of building up a 10 per cent stake. A bid of 320p a share has been mentioned.

One of the best performers in the engineering sector was TI Group, up 20p at 641p. Having sold its Rayleigh ti-

It looks like being a busy March for Arlen, the electrical accessories group, unchanged at 122p. Word is the group is thinking of appointing Kleinwort Grieveson its broker and then plans to hit the takeover trail. This may be followed by someone taking a sizable stake in the company.

cycles business, there are whispers that the group is now poised to sell its Creda cookers subsidiary. But the slimmer TI is now looking vulnerable to a bid.

● **FRANKFURT:** Leading share prices closed a quiet and lacklustre session mixed. The Commerzbank index closed 11.8 lower at 1,711.7.

● **TOKYO:** Shares closed slightly lower in busy trade on profit-taking over concern about high prices, brokers said.

The market average lost 32.24 to 20,421.66, after soaring 267.57 the day before.

● **HONG KONG:** Share prices closed sharply higher in hectic trading with strong demand from foreign institutions, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index rose 34.27 to 2,877.87.

● **SYDNEY:** Share prices soared in a rally led by blue chips, fuelled partly by a flow of better-than-expected company results. Gold shares generally were strong. All ordinaries index: 1614.1 (1593.0).

● **SINGAPORE:** The stock market closed generally higher.

The Straits Times industrial index rose 1.25 points to close at 1,066.02.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Bank nails down the pension fund chiefs

David Walker's address to the National Association of Pension Funds in Eastbourne yesterday is a Bank of England classic. It not only nailed some major precepts, or "perspectives" as he called them, to the door of the conference room, it nailed the pension fund managers, too. In the great debate on the relationships between the City and industry, currently focused on takeovers, insider dealing and Square Mile morals, the pension funds are the most crucial – and among the most criticized – element.

They now hold a third of all British equities and they have taken to delegating the handling of their funds to outside discretionary managers who, as a group, are responsible for stakes in quoted companies comparable in size with those of the leading life assurance companies. Thus, they are the great arbiters of the fate – the ownership – of quoted companies. They could, given a change in attitudes to investment performance and the right machinery, become a major influence in improving corporate performance by ways other than acquisitions and mergers.

As Mr Walker delicately reminded his audience "you operate in a very liberal market environment...and it is desirable that this should continue. But if this is to be achieved, great sensitivity will be needed to the wider, socio-economic environment." Such investor-power, in relatively few hands, exercised in a

relatively free market represents "substantial privileges."

"In a complex society such as ours, no such privilege will be long endured or by those who find that they are at the wrong end of its exercise unless such privilege is exercised with commensurate responsibility."

Mr Walker believes the short-term debate is unlikely to shed any more light and that "the debate on relationships between financial institutions and industry needs to be developed in a more down-to-earth and pragmatic way". He is right in insisting that "the reciprocal of the accountability of the board to the shareholders is the duty of the shareholder to satisfy himself as to the quality and composition of the board."

This is not a licence to interfere in the running of companies but to exert influence to promote better boards is both a right and a responsibility. And here another penetrating Walker dart: "It cannot be a logical proposition that a failure of management necessarily requires a change of ownership."

Among specific initiatives the Bank of England favours are a "code of best practice" which would suggest a minimum number of non-executive directors on listed-company boards and the introduction of audit committees. He also believes in improved disclosure and accounting standards.

Time to put a stop to Tiny

In the present climate, as never before, it is vital that the Department of Trade and Industry should be vigilant, diligent, consistent and coherent. In the Guinness affair, rumour and speculation, most recently about criminal investigations and impending charges, are let run riot. Over the department's investigation into alleged abuse of inside information by people within its own ranks, a blanket of silence has come down.

Yet in a matter which ought to have been laid to rest a long time ago – Lornho's campaign against the Al-Fayeds brothers, owners of House of Fraser and Harrods – Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State, has scuttled round to Kleinwort Benson to ask for still further assurances about the Al-Fayeds' resources.

Sir Peter Horden, a Tory MP whose relationship with Fraser pre-dates the takeover – has written to the minister, deploring Lornho's "vendetta" and pointing out that his predecessor at the time of the Fraser bid, Mr Norman Tebbit, was entirely satisfied that the Al-Fayeds had both the means to pay Fraser shareholders (they received their money) and the wherewithal to invest in the development of House of Fraser and Harrods (which they have done, on a

grand scale). Sir Peter goes on:

"It certainly does not come well from Lornho to complain about the extent of the Al-Fayeds' resources, when they were at the time of the bid one of the most highly geared companies in Britain. Indeed it is hard to see how Lornho could have proceeded with the bid without a very serious strain on its resources, which would almost certainly have led to the disposal of Fraser stores, while keeping Harrods."

In Sir Peter's view "it is time that a stand was made, not just for the sake of the Government's own standing." The DTI seems to lack the conviction of a half-settled jelly and Sir Peter's suggestion of "a balance sheet of considerations" may be too much for a bewildered Mr Channon to swallow. But it is surely reasonable, in the interest of fair and firm government and of those who work in House of Fraser, for him to put an official end to Lornho's campaign by stating, in Sir Peter Horden's words, "that you are wholly satisfied with the resources and conduct of the Al-Fayeds, and that no further observations from Lornho will be entertained."

Or if not, to explain why not. To do otherwise would be the woeful act of a weak minister.

TEMPUS

The Black Horse is ready for another run at Chartered

Lloyds Bank's 1986 results should have given some reassurance to a stockmarket obsessed with Latin American debt problems.

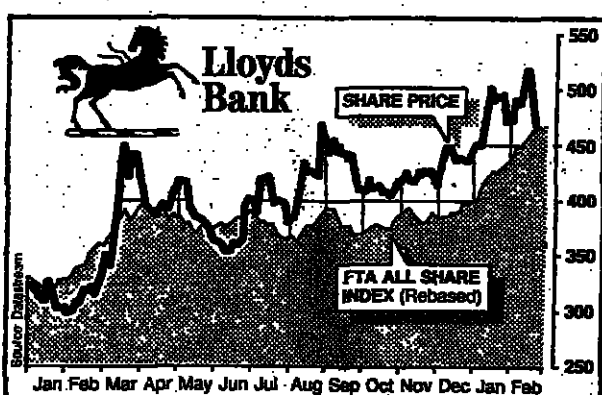
The bank is second only to Midland in its exposure to South America, with cross-border loans of some £5 billion, including those to Mexico. But the fundamental strength of Lloyds' performance in almost all other areas makes the market's fears look somewhat hysterical.

Although overall bad debt provisions rose less last year, Lloyds made a substantial increase in sovereign debt provision. The ratio of provisions to advances strengthened marginally.

Lloyds likes to talk about post-tax rather than pretax profits, achieving a 42 per cent increase to £470 million. Solid gains in most home areas resulted in an increased return on average assets of 1.55 per cent, up from 1.35 per cent, despite a drop in the net interest margin. The Black Horse estate agency business is hardly a gold mine as yet, but commission from other parts of the group made a useful £797 million contribution to operating income.

The only disappointment was the £28 million loss at Lloyds Merchant Bank. Given that Lloyds is growing most of its merchant banking and securities business in-house, it had no goodwill or income from bought-in businesses to offset against costs. But the loss is in the same league as Barclays' and National Westminster's, though Lloyds' operation is considerably smaller. The consolation is that costs should fall away sharply, and with less reliance on dealing profits than most of its competitors, the merchant bank should see a big turnaround this year.

The dividend increase, the strong profit line and the improvement in earnings per share – doubled in the past two years – make Lloyds an obviously popular stock when the banking sector recovers from the Latin America blues. The capital



Lloyds Bank

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

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FT All Share Index (Rebased)

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Share Price

FT All Share Index (Rebased)

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There is no quoted company which allows a direct comparison with either Calor or Contibel, so we must start from first principles.

First Calor, which comprises the liquid petroleum gas business and a 58.8 per cent share in Century Power and Light, the oil and gas explorer and producer.

The oil assets are valued in the documents at 42p a share, assuming oil at \$15 a barrel. But whereas most of the independent oil companies are trading at or even above their asset values, it is most unlikely that Century's asset value would be fully reflected in the Calor share price.

A comparison with Burmah Oil shows why. When it disposed of its oil interests, overnight it ceased to be a low-rated stock whose price did not reflect the value of either its oil assets or Castrol and was transformed into a highly-rated specialty chemicals company.

It is likely that the inclusion of the oil interests with Calor will mean that its value is lost and Calor Group will be valued on a multiple basis, with a bit of exploration glamour for the future.

On virtually flat bottled-gas volumes in 1986-87, profits are forecast to rise by 30 per cent, implying a significant fattening of margins. Future earnings growth will be at risk if Calor cannot hang on to these. A market multiple of 14 times 1986-87 earnings values Calor at 424p.

Turning to Contibel, the more sophisticated may view it as an easy way into the Belgian stock market. They may also see it as a prime takeover candidate, and there could be a lot of Belgian interest.

Or they may be wary of its irrecoverable advance corporation tax position and there could be a wave of selling when dealings start. But Belgian interest should ensure that the shares stabilize at about a 25 per cent discount to assets, or 254p a share.

The sum of the parts is 678p. Shareholders should hold on.

far down the acquisition trail as it wants for the time being.

In Britain, Sedgwick's broking revenue increased by 13 per cent in sterling terms, with underlying growth put at 17 per cent, but profits came under pressure, particularly in the marine sector.

In North America, the James Group turned in higher revenues and profit, but a 20 per cent improvement in the underlying rate of growth was eroded by the strength of sterling against the dollar. Future growth is likely to be affected by the levelling off in rates now being seen in the US.

Group figures include only six weeks' contribution from the Crumpton acquisition, which have thus had little impact on earnings per share, which are 2.3 per cent higher at 21.9p.

Now firmly established as a major presence in the US – it expects to earn more than half its profits there this year – Sedgwick is poised for some solid organic growth, and profits of perhaps £175 million look possible in 1987. Yet the shares, after yesterday's 11p upward adjustment to 334p, still look unexciting.

IC Gas

Now that full details of the restructuring of the Imperial Continental Gas Association are published, the current price must reflect the sum of what the market collectively thinks the quotations of the individual component companies will be when dealings start on Monday, April 27.

Even the best mountaineers benefit from a little local knowledge

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T.M.E. 2/87

TRUSTEE AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING • UNIT TRUSTS • OFFSHORE FUNDS • PENSION FUNDS • PRIVATE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT • INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

live	Idle	Aug	94.5	98.0
over	July 31st	Aug	94.5	94.5
cash	353.00-355.00	Oct.	95.0	96.5
three Months	362.00-364.00			Vol 30
6	Idle			
live	Idle			
Pig Meat - Vol				
Live Cattle Contract				
¢ per lb.				
Month	Open	Close		
Feb	94.5	94.5		
Mar	95.0	96.0		
Apr	97.8	97.7		
May	98.5	98.6		
				Vol 3
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				
£ per tone				
Month	Wheat	Barley		
Mar	95.0	95.0		
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Jul	95.0	95		

Steady	£ per tonne	Wheat	Barley
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[illegible]

Portfolio
Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Freemantle	Oil	
2	Western Bros	Building Roads	
3	HK Shanghai	Banks/Discount	
4	Emo Lighting	Electricals	
5	Bagnall Brick	Building Roads	
6	Time Products	Drugs/Stores	
7	Woodside	Oil	
8	Cardo Eng	Industrial A-D	
9	Bilham (J)	Industrial S-Z	
10	Southern	Building Roads	
11	Marshall (Hafra)	Electricals	
12	Erskine House	Industrial E-K	
13	Island Foods	Food	
14	AB Elect	Electricals	
15	Abertan Conser	Building Roads	
16	Reyon	Industrial L-R	
17	Und Newspapers	Newspapers/Pubs	
18	Providence	Banks/Discount	
19	Greenall Whitley	Breweries	
20	Portals	Industrial L-R	
21	Sumrie Cloth	Drugs/Stores	
22	Aynshire Metal	Industrial A-D	
23	Marlowe (Bernard)	Food	
24	Jones & Shipman	Industrial E-K	
25	Fib	Building Roads	
26	Fife Indhar	Industrial E-K	
27	Chesley Hunt	Industrial A-D	
28	Warmpson (T)	Building Roads	
29	Tip Top Drug	Drugs/Stores	
30	Evode	Chemicals/Plas	
31	Micro BS	Electricals	
32	Hampson Ind	Industrial E-K	
33	Restair	Industrial E-K	
34	Ladies Price	Drugs/Stores	
35	Brent Chem	Chemicals/Plas	
36	Office Elect Mach	Industrial L-R	
37	Hechal Bar	Building Roads	
38	ML Hogs	Industrial L-R	
39	Hume Farm	Food	
40	Davis & Newman	Industrial A-D	
41	Chem Automation	Industrial L-R	
42	Notion	Industrial L-R	
43	Liberty	Drugs/Stores	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

UNDATED						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INDEX-LINKED						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Little selling in equities

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began last Monday. Dealings end on Friday. Settlement day March 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

E-K						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

FOODS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS E-K						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS L-R						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS S-Z						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

S-Z						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

OIL						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

SHOES AND LEATHER						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

INSURANCE						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE						
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MINING						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

SHIPPING						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCOS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

Portfolio
Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
WEEKLY DIVIDEND £16,000
Claims required for +36 points
Claims required for +241 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

SHIPPING						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCOS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	P/E

All abroad for Luxembourg.

In response to demand from investors and their professional advisers Oppenheimer announces an attractive new offshore investment.

The Oppenheimer Managed Assets Company.

For the first time those wishing to invest with Oppenheimer can have: **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT OFFSHORE** with advice from our London Portfolio team which has an established record of consistent performance across our range of U.K. Authorised unit trusts.

A **LUXEMBOURG BASE** with the shares of Oppenheimer Managed Assets Company listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange. The Company offers shares in registered or bearer form as well as tax efficiency. There is, for example, no U.K. capital gains tax on switches between Funds.*

AN INITIAL RANGE OF 5 FUNDS for which the Company will seek distributor status.

Denominated currency

European Managed	US\$
Global Income	US\$
International Managed	US\$
Pacific Managed	US\$
Worldwide Recovery	US\$

EASY ACCESS via the Company's Share Distributor in London. The shares will be valued daily and prices published in the Financial Times.

To receive a prospectus return the completed coupon to the address shown or alternatively telephone 01-489 1078.

*This constitutes our understanding of U.K. tax legislation at the present time.

To: Oppenheimer Securities Limited, FREEPOST EC4B 4HE. Please send me a copy of The Oppenheimer Managed Assets Company prospectus.

Name Mr/Ms/Miss

Address

Postcode

Telephone No.

Applications may only be made on the basis of the Company's prospectus. To qualify for the fixed price offer share applications must be received by 10.00 a.m. on the 30th March 1987.



INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		Contact
	29%	45%	60%	Investment £	Notice	
BANKS						
Deposit A/c						
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1587
Lloyds	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-726 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6000
National Girobank!	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.13	5.52	4.02	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.13	5.52	4.02	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.13	5.52	4.02	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.82	5.28	3.84	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.83	5.14	3.74	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000

Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

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- Investing in currencies
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Charity go-ahead

The Charities Aid Foundation's Give As You Earn Scheme received final confirmation from the Inland Revenue this week that it can act as an agency charity. This means that Give As You Earn now has the go-ahead to administer payroll deduction schemes on behalf of companies and employees when the scheme starts in April. It allows all employees to give up to £120 a year, free of tax, to charities of their choice.

Two to merge

Colchester Building Society members have voted in favour of a merger with the Cheltenham & Gloucester. The merger will take effect by the middle of the year, subject to official approval. Rodney Partington, managing director of the Colchester, says the merger will give his members access to an increasing range of investment, home-buying, insurance and personal loan services.

Getting a share

Coopers & Lybrand, chartered accountants, and Monks Partnership, the remuneration consultants, have published a guide to employee share schemes, based on a survey of 1,000 top companies. The authors say that take-up in SAYE share option schemes remains disappointingly low and that performance-linked executive option schemes are still uncommon. Not surprisingly, share schemes are significantly more popular in larger companies. Copies of *Employee Share Schemes in Practice*, priced at £40, are available from any Coopers & Lybrand office.

For the children

General Accident has published a leaflet designed to give guidance to parents who want to make financial provision for their children. It provides information on subjects such as co-terminating to take advantage of tax benefits, and the effective use of life insurance. Details from any General Accident branch.

NatWest offer

Professional and self-employed people can obtain finance for up to 30 years under the NatWest Bank's revised scheme for personal pension loans, announced this week. Borrowing can be up to 2.5 times annual earned income or 80 per cent of the underlying policy's anticipated lump sum.

What is the best way of paying off a mortgage? PETER GARTLAND assesses the present alternatives and predicts that the future will be dominated by a new breed of pension mortgages

Time was when house-buyers borrowed from a building society and repaid the capital and interest over several years. Then came endowment schemes marketed by insurance companies. In the endowment set-up the money is still borrowed from a building society, or a bank, but only the interest is repaid over the period of the loan. The capital element is repaid at the end of the term from the proceeds of an endowment policy. The theory, generally borne out in practice, is that on maturity of the endowment policy the lump sum will be enough to pay off the capital and provide the policyholder with a welcome tax-free nest egg.

Ten years ago the arguments over which was the better method usually favoured repayment mortgages, especially for standard rate taxpayers. Today the arguments are much more firmly weighted in favour of endowment policies. Confederation of Life Insurance concedes that a repayment mortgage is best for people who are never going to buy another house on a mortgage, cannot afford to pay a penny more, and will not need a large capital sum in the future.

But, they point out, with an endowment mortgage not only is the capital repayment fund transferable but there should also be a cash surplus after repaying the mortgage that substantially reduces the cost of buying your home.

Confederation Life recommends endowment mortgages for standard rate taxpayers, but maintains they are even better value for higher rate payers.

But the mortgage market looks set for an even bigger revolution. The idea of using your pension to fund your mortgage remains a relatively new and controversial financial ploy but, provided the Government retains the present tax rules, there is every reason to suppose that the pension mortgage will replace the endowment as the dominant repayment method.

So, what is it and how does it work? The pension mortgage is a close cousin of the endowment mortgage in that only interest payments are made, and the capital is repaid from the lump sum part of an individual's pension.

The beauty of it lies in its tax efficiency, which knocks spots off every other mortgage financing system available. This is because there is not only tax relief at the borrower's highest rate on the interest element of loans up to £30,000, but also payments made into the pension plan are fully tax-deductible, again at the highest tax rate.

So, with a pension mortgage the repayment of capital is fully tax-deductible, quite unlike the capital in endowment and repayment mortgages. The long-term financial difference is quite startling, as the figures in the table from financial advisers Towry Law demonstrate.

Until now pension mortgages have been confined to people eligible for a so-called Section 226 pension plan (largely the self-employed) and people who can look forward to the benefits of an executive pension plan.

There has also been scope



Durward, left, and Pointon: the voices of support

for pension mortgages for members of an occupational pension scheme who make what are known as additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) to boost their pension potential. This method is cumbersome in that employees' AVC rights are entirely at the whim of their employer. This will not change until new legislation comes into force next year.

But already at least one building society — the City of London — is blazing a trail by making available what amounts to a pension mortgage to people who belong to an occupational scheme, irrespective of any AVC involvement.

Since early 1986 City of London has made around 500 pension mortgage advances to members of occupational schemes. The idea was in response to the society's own desire to help people moving from north to south and those

trying to get a first foot on the house ownership ladder.

It is claimed to be a flexible scheme in that it can be switched to an endowment or repayment mortgage if the borrower's circumstances change, and City of London sees no reason why the pension mortgage concept should not be extended to people in occupational schemes.

This innovation is likely to be copied wholesale in the run-up to de-regulation of the pensions industry in April 1988. Then the 11 million people in occupational schemes will have the option of taking out their own personal pension. Whether they should do so is a quite different subject but mortgages for all in connection with DIY pensions and occupational ones alike are now only just around the corner.

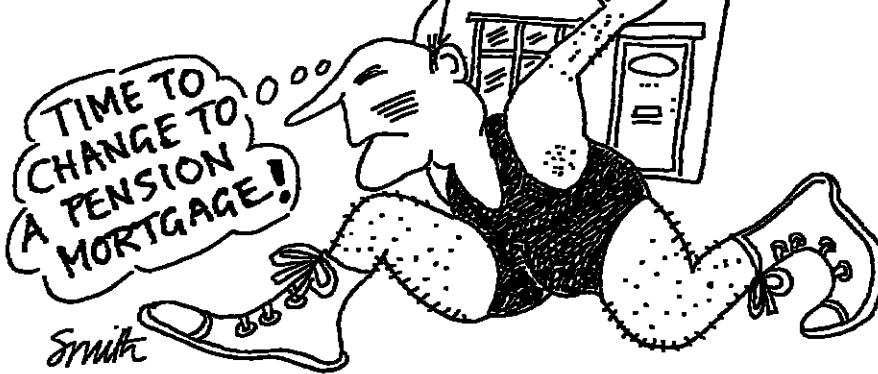
This week, Scott Durward, chief executive of Britain's

fifth biggest building society, the Alliance & Leicester, said it was an anomaly that pension-linked mortgages should not be as widely available to employed people as to the self-employed.

Geoffrey Pointon, chairman of financial services group Pointon York, is also a strong advocate of pension-linked mortgages. He says there is no hint in the Inland Revenue's recently published document on personal pensions that pension mortgages are to be discouraged. So, says Mr Pointon, with basic rate tax relief available at source on personal contributions and retirement on offer at 50, we are likely to see a switch to this method, raising the number of people who have both a house and a pension in their name.

There is one danger. You could jeopardize the level of your pension as a result of the lump sum at retirement not being enough to pay off the mortgage. However, with its customary eye for profitable marketing, the financial services industry is sure to come up with refinements to minimize that danger.

The most likely starting point is the encouragement of people to fund to age 50 to pay off the mortgage and then to fund to age 65 for the balance of their retirement income.



Male 35 next	COMPARISON OF METHODS OF MORTGAGE REPAYMENT		Tax rate 29%
	Amount of loan £30,000		
	Capital & int repayment method with life cover Int 12% (8.52% net)	Low-cost mortgage plan method Int 12% (8.52% net)	Personal pension repayment facility Int 12% (8.52% net)
MONTHLY OUTLAY			
Loan interest (net of basic rate tax)	244.80 (inc capital)	213.00	213.00
Pension contribution	—	—	65.50
Endowment premium	—	41.20	—
Mortgage protection premium	5.50	—	—
Self-employed term premium	—	—	7.70
	250.30	254.20	286.20
MONTHLY OUTGOINGS			
Less tax relief	—	—	—
on pension premiums at 29%	—	—	19.00
on term assurance at 29%	—	—	2.23
Total tax relief	—	—	21.23
NET OUTLAY	250.30	254.20	264.87
PROJECTED BENEFITS			
Surplus after repayment	nil	£30,572	£2,247 plus a pension of £9,882 a year

THE WARDLEY JAPAN GROWTH TRUST

EVERY £5,000 INVESTED HAS NOW GROWN TO £28,500 SINCE OCTOBER 1982



The Wardley Japan Growth Trust is one of the very best performing of all unit trusts.

Had you been fortunate enough to have invested when we launched in October 1982 you would have seen a 570% increase in the value of your units to date. And over the last twelve months alone an investment would have grown by a remarkable 79%. (Figures calculated offer to bid, income not reinvested to 26th February 1987.)

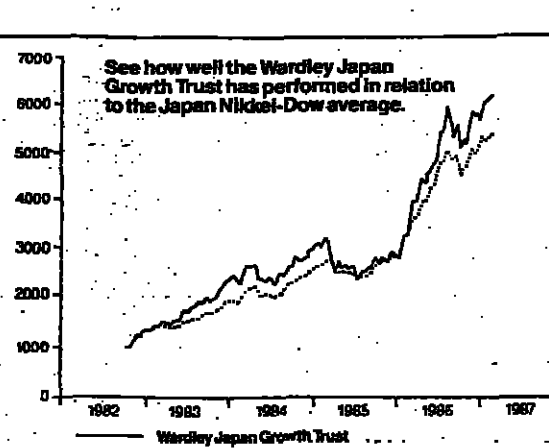
Compare that with the growth you have been getting from your portfolio. And, if your money is languishing in a building society account, the comparison hardly bears thinking about!

As for future prospects, all the signs are that this level of growth is set to continue for the rest of this year and beyond.

The Japanese economy is going from strength to strength

The Japanese domestic economy is awash with money. Manufacturing costs are down. Inflation is fast approaching zero. Interest rates are at about 1%. The Yen is strong. And the citizens of Japan are demonstrating their own confidence by investing millions of Yen in domestic companies every single month.

This is the economic climate that other countries only get to dream about. And it means that investing in the right companies now can earn fabulous rewards.



Wardley are uniquely placed to make the most of the Japanese boom

What is it that has made the Wardley Japan Growth Trust one of the very top performers in its sector? In short, the answer is 'local expertise'.

Wardley is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, one of the largest financial institutions in the world. That means we have enviable resources in the Far East and a specialist local knowledge of the Japanese economy.

The Japan Growth Trust is advised from our Tokyo office, and the same fund managers who have produced 79% growth in just one year will be striving to improve that performance over the months to come.

However, it is important to remember that the value of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

The best time to make your investment is NOW

It isn't often that one can look ahead with such confidence. But all the indicators suggest that the Japanese economy will continue to

GENERAL INFORMATION
Dealing in Unit Trusts will be bought at the Offer Price on any business day on which orders are received. (As a guide the Offer Price on 26th February 1987 was 152.4p). A Contract Note will be sent immediately your application is received - and your Unit Certificate will normally follow within the next 42 days. When you sell your units, payment will be made at the Bid Price, normally within 7 days of the receipt of your renounced Unit Certificate.
Price and yield: The current prices and yield are quoted in the Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and The Times.
Income: The estimated gross current yield on 26th February was 0.1% per annum. Net income is distributed annually on 29th November.
Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries, the rates being available on request. An annual management charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the income (or capital, if there is insufficient income).
Safeguards: The Trust is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a wider range investment under the Trustee Investment Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyd's Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.
Management Company: Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited, Reg. No. 120945 England, Reg. Office: Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HN.
A member of the Unit Trust Association.

See how well the Wardley Japan Growth Trust has performed in relation to the Japan Nikkei-Dow average.

Wardley Japan Growth Trust
Japan Nikkei-Dow Average - Sterling Adjusted

Wardley
Fund Managers Worldwide
member: Hongkong Bank group

Application for Investments in the Wardley Japan Growth Trust

I/We enclose a cheque for (£ _____ 00) to purchase units in the Wardley Japan Growth Trust, at the offer price ruling on receipt of this application. (Minimum investment £1,000. Subsequent additions can be made in any amount subject to a lower limit of £100).

Surname _____

First Names _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

(In the case of joint applications, each must sign and attach full names.)
Please tick the box if you would like distributions reinvested ☐
Please tick the appropriate box(es) if you would like:
(i) Details of the Wardley Capital Builder ☐
(ii) Details of our Share Exchange Scheme ☐
(iii) Details of our Portfolio Management Services ☐

Please send this completed application form and a cheque for the amount you wish to invest to:
**Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited,
Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square,
London EC2M 4HN.
Telephone: 01-929 1532 or 929 1534.**

Not applicable in Eire T 28/2

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COMMODITIES LIMITED

99% of unit-linked personal pension policies will cost you dearly. Here's one that won't.

Unit-linked personal pension policies can be a first class investment. But you may have to pay a high price to meet the insurance company's costs or commission to an intermediary.

Some will cut your investment by as much as 50% in the first year, or even in the first two years.

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What's more The Equitable offers additional bonus units to those who save at least £500 a year.

And our management charges on the underlying investment funds are commendably low.

So with The Equitable your money has a head start. Couple it with high tax relief and our investment record—and you have the most attractive route to financial security in retirement.

One of the reasons our pension policies do not cost you dearly is that we do not pay commission. So please contact us direct on 01-606 6611 or send the coupon.

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I welcome further details on The Equitable's unit-linked retirement plans. I am self-employed () I am an employee not in a company pension scheme () I want to top up benefits from my company's pension scheme. (UK residents only)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____

Tel: (Office) _____

Tel: (Home) _____

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The Equitable Life

—You gain because we're different.—

12.7%* A YEAR

IMMEDIATE INCOME PAID FREE OF TAX†

THE FUND — primarily invests in "exempt" British Government Securities (Gilt). These are Gilt which are not liable to any UK taxation.

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS — paid free of any withholding taxes.

REAL RETURN — inflation is now under 4%. The Fund therefore provides a real return of more than 8%.

NO FIXED TERM — the investment can be held for as long as you wish, you can sell at any time, on any business day.

MINIMUM INVESTMENT \$1,000

The Fund has been certified as a "Distributing Fund" under the provisions of the UK Finance Act 1984 in respect of its latest account period.

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MIM Britannia International is part of Britannia Arrow Holdings PLC, a UK public company, capitalised at over £300m with over 30,000 shareholders.

Companies within the Britannia Group manage investments valued in excess of \$8,000m from international offices in London, Boston, Denver, and Tokyo.

Investments clients include pension funds, unit trusts, mutual funds, institutional and private accounts.

For more information, contact MIM Britannia International Limited, P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queen Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Telephone: (0534) 731141 Telex: 4192052

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MIM BRITANNIA

JERSEY GILT FUND LIMITED

COMPLETE COUPON — and receive a detailed letter, together with our latest investment bulletin and the fund brochure, including your application form.

*Calculated as at 23rd February 1987.

†The Fund is based in Jersey and is listed on The Stock Exchange, London.

NOTE — UK resident shareholders will, depending on their circumstances, be liable to UK taxation in respect of dividends received. Investors should recognise that whilst Gilt provide a very high immediate return, the prospect of capital gain in the future may vary. The Fund's assets are diversified across a wide range of Gilt securities.

MIM Britannia International Limited, P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queen Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Telephone: (0534) 731141 Telex: 4192052

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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DATE OF BIRTH _____

Tel: (Office) _____

Tel: (Home) _____

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MIM BRITANNIA

JERSEY GILT FUND LIMITED

1987, a good year for home loans

■ We would all like to know what is going to happen to mortgage rates during the remainder of 1987.

National & Provincial Building Society's general manager Terry Carroll thinks he has the answer.

Mr Carroll believes it is not impossible to foresee a scenario in which, by the year end, rates are at their lowest level for three years.

He is looking for a 1 per cent cut in base rates by the end of March which would pave the way for mortgage rates to fall below 12 per cent.

If the City takes the base rate out in its stride then further falls would be in prospect by mid-summer, says Mr Carroll.

and comprehensively the discounts that are available if you invest in Framlington's trusts. "Discounts are given automatically — you do not have to ask," the booklet says.

Details: Framlington, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ (01-628 5181).

PEP appeal

■ Fidelity Investment Services has called on the Chancellor to widen the appeal of personal equity plans. In a pre-Budget submission to Nigel Lawson, Fidelity argues that further tax incentives would give PEPs greater appeal.

So far PEPs have been bought mainly by higher rate taxpayers but they have not caught the imagination of standard tax first-time investors.

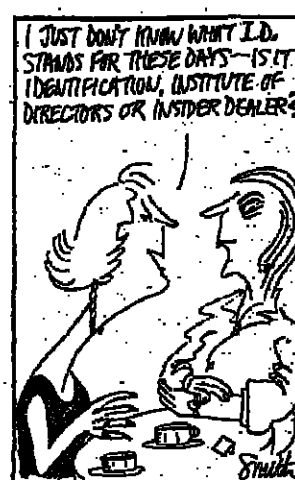
Fidelity's proposal is that the first £500 of a PEP subscription should be set against standard rate tax. This, it says, would have the dual benefit of attracting new investors while not being seen to discriminate in favour of higher rate taxpayers.

Fidelity estimates that after £348 tax relief in addition to the tax credit repayable currently, it believes this would cost the Exchequer £350 million a year.

Guide to trust

■ Framlington Unit Trust Management has produced its 1987 guide to the funds and services it offers to the public. Not surprisingly, it is available free.

The guide, apart from describing Framlington, contains some useful general information on unit trusts, such as the taxation aspects. It also lays out clearly



Just in today

■ CCL Trusts is launching two new funds today. They are CCL UK General and CCL Global. The main aim of the UK general fund is long-term capital growth through ordinary shares, and convertibles.

The managers will also be looking to provide income, and the estimated gross initial yield is 2.3 per cent. CCL Global will look for capital growth through an international portfolio with no set geographical market or sector weighting. CCL's marketing director Graham Pankhurst has appointed Kleinwort Grieveson as fund managers for both the new unit trusts.

The minimum investment is £1,000 and launch bonuses of up to 2 per cent are on offer until March 21.

Details: CCL Unit Trusts Ltd, 74 Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12 8SD (01-740 7070).



executive of the Alliance & Leicester, said this week that to forbid a natural twofold provision of services in the name of polarization is not to protect the public, but to limit choice and create confusion. He referred to polarization as a doctrinaire measure which would produce an effect more or less opposite from what was intended.

The SIB is no more likely to be moved by such protest than it was by this week's debate on polarization in the House of Lords. If banks and building societies want to pursue this battle, they will have to do so direct with the Office of Fair Trading.

Expanding

■ Building societies are expanding the range of products they offer to the public beyond the straightforward home loans business. This week sees the Skipton Building Society launching a monthly premium car insurance policy in conjunction with General Accident.

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is introducing C&G Personal Loans. These can be used for the normal type of consumer purchase — such as cars or holidays — but are secured on your home. The minimum loan is £1,000 and typical APR is 16.7 per cent. This is cheaper than loans by the big banks — but these do not have to be secured on the home.



Pankhurst: marketing director

Another critic

■ The Alliance & Leicester has added its weight to mounting criticism among building societies and banks over polarization rules.

Polarization is one of the cornerstones of financial advice practice laid down by the Securities and Investments Board. It means that building societies have to choose whether to operate as independent intermediaries or as agents of one particular financial institution.

Scott Durward, chief

of the Alliance & Leicester, said this week that to forbid a natural twofold provision of services in the name of polarization is not to protect the public, but to limit choice and create confusion. He referred to polarization as a doctrinaire measure which would produce an effect more or less opposite from what was intended.

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Expanding

FAMILY MONEY/3

Freehold trouble in the air

PROPERTY

At first sight, the sea-view flat seemed a very desirable asset. It included two spacious bedrooms, full gas central heating, part double glazing, a sunny kitchen and connecting garage suitable for conversion to a study or work-playroom. A courtyard and garden completed the environs.

At the offer price of £17,750, it appeared not only to fulfil the agent's adulatory "delightful" but also to provide excellent value as a first-time or holiday home.

Prospective buyers flocked to the quiet East Coast town of Sheringham, Norfolk, where the flat is located. More than 20 of them entered serious negotiations. More than two years later, the apartment remains unsold.

Age proved no problem — the host property, *fin-de-siècle* Victorian, is solid as the rocks nearby — and nor did the certainty of mortgage retention, the part-withholding of money advanced until necessary repairs were carried out.

The obstacle that has effectively torpedoed every impending deal is a legal one whose significance initially

Principle of land law contravened

went unappreciated by most of the would-be buyers.

Even those who were well aware that *freehold* flats ring Rumpoleian alarm bells still wanted to press ahead, hoping the inherent difficulties could be resolved. In this instance, such optimism has proved unrealistic.

What exactly is the problem? Why are lawyers and, following their lead, building societies, so wary of freehold flats?

One might think "freehold" implies all-rights possession until Doomsday, as it virtually does with any type of house owned freehold — though even here, there is no absolute ownership in the strictest sense, as a freehold is ultimately held by the Crown,

to which a property reverts *homo vacantia* if the owner dies intestate with no claiming relatives.

Furthermore, the fact that a freehold flat is popular and usually justified image as a strong, secure instrument that inspires total confidence.

The chief difficulty arises with freehold flats that are situated above ground level and known as "flying freeholds", a breezy euphemism for a form of ownership that

practical problem is that you cannot force the person below you to do anything.

A similar dilemma can arise, but *in reverse*, even where the freehold flat is at ground level, the freeholder can find it impossible to oblige others in the building to effect necessary repairs or contribute towards them.

He may have to rely on informal agreement, which can be hard to achieve in the present climate where many owners think flat-dwelling

the documents can be set up in such a way that covenants, rights and obligations as between one leaseholder and another are legally binding.

Some glimmer of hope for beleaguered freeholders shines in the possibility of an official scheme, which paradoxically rests its case on the legal equivalent of homeopathic medicine.

Under the "commonhold" scheme, ever flat-owner will be a *freeholder* with exclusive ownership of his individual flat. A company in which every unit has a share will be set up to own the common parts of the property and have responsibility for structural repairs and the provision of services, which would be financed by a charge levied on the unit owners.

The new framework follows the setting-up last year of a Law Commission working group under the Law Commissioner Trevor Aldridge. Its brief was to devise a scheme for the combined ownership of land that would be suitable for adoption in blocks of flats, as well as commercial properties and shared residential estates.

The report recommending

Banks tend to be more adventurous

the commonhold scheme is due out in July.

Leaseholders tempted meanwhile to buy the freehold of their flat should wait for any practical outcome to the report. Equally, intending buyers of freehold flats should heed their solicitors.

To ignore even a counsel of caution, let alone outright advice not to proceed, risks wasting time and money in quest of a willing mortgagee — banks tend to be more adventurous than building societies in such circumstances. It also means that one may be buying into endless uncertainty, frustration, and the eventual prospect of being unable to re-sell at any price.

Nicholas Cole



directly contravenes the main principle of land law.

This has its origins in feudal days of low-rise living. Thus, the basic concept of a freehold is ownership of land at ground level. Strict application of this concept, therefore, prevents a flat not "situated on the land" from being a freehold.

Many do exist, however, in our cities, towns and villages, although no one can say for sure in what quantity, and have been accepted for practical reasons.

Flying freeholds are sometimes found in rows of old cottages where a bedroom belonging to one property extends above the ground floor of an adjoining cottage. The problem here is minimized because every cottage usually has its own separate area of land and ground floor.

Anyone contemplating the purchase of a flying freehold might well hear his solicitor voice misgivings about security of title, and point out the hurdle represented by the matter of repairs and maintenance. "In plain terms," a London lawyer says, "the

spells avoidance of the maintenance costs that a house-owner expects to meet.

Although it is unlikely that anyone living directly above his flat would leave a leaking roof unrepaired, it is not unknown for leaks over "common parts", such as hall and stairways, to be ignored, and exterior wood and paintwork likewise.

The freeholder can only watch powerless as dilapidation spreads and the property value sinks — or attempt to persuade fellow freeholders (or leaseholders as such mixes occur) to join in a legal restructuring operation. This would prove costly, quite complicated and ultimately of questionable value.

The almost universal practice nowadays when dealing with flats is to create them as leaseholds, however long — 999 years, for example — and sometimes at a minimal rent.

This means that all the leaseholders hold their lease from one freeholder who can be an individual, a property or management company, and

Your money and your rights

THE LAW

Money matters, although important, often-spawn financial books that are instructive but dry as dust.

No one can accuse the late Percy Richer of producing an arid work of art in *Richer's Legal Nuggets, A Money-Saving Guide to Everyday Legal Problems*, which was published yesterday.

The book is an amusing, sometimes lurid, tour of the ways in which the law infiltrates aspects of our daily life, such as money, family matters, leisure, and, of course, sex.

Mr Richer says in his introduction that the English "are essentially a law-abiding people", and he quotes Lenin to support this.

He recalls: "Lenin said that

if they (the English) planned to storm a railway station they would all buy platform tickets first."

The book contains some useful money tips — such as the way in which payment by credit card fixes the credit card company with just as much legal responsibility as the person from whom you are buying goods.

It is crammed with examples of situations in which you might find yourself and gives a legal guide to how to cope with them.

What for instance would you do if you find you have bought from a dealer a car that has been "clocked" — that is, had its millimeter set back a few thousand miles?

Mr Richer advocates contacting your local trading

standards officer so that he can instigate criminal proceedings. He also suggests asking for a compensation order to be made in your favour against anyone convicted of the clocking offence.

However, he stops short of telling you what you must actually do to get the order. The book is more a mixture of helpful tidbits and amusing anecdotes than a guide to exercising your legal rights.

Richer's Legal Nuggets is published by Queen Anne Press, 3rd Floor, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QX (01-377 4661). It costs £6.95 plus postage and packing. The publishers say that it will also be available in bookshop chains such as W.H. Smith.

Lawrence Lever

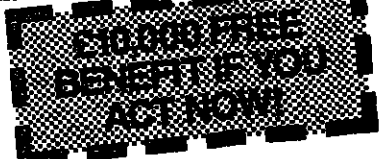
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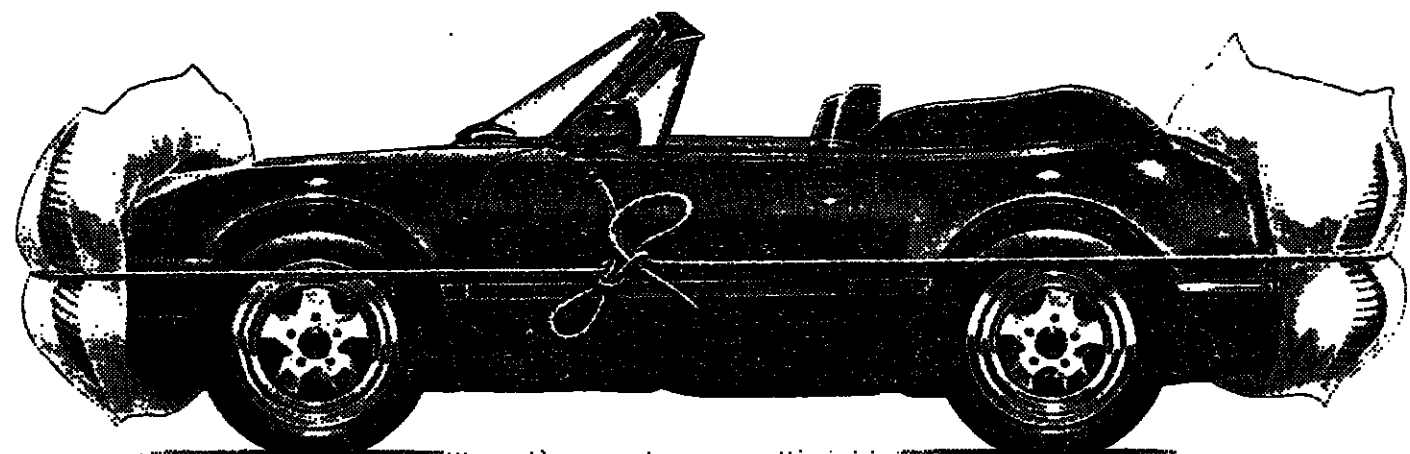
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Your role in curbing crime

The statistics of crime are always horrifying. According to the Legal & General Insurance group, a burglary is committed on average every 90 seconds, and in 1985 there were 480,000 recorded burglaries, resulting in losses of £219.4 million.

The insurance industry, the police and the Home Office — most recently through a television advertising campaign to be repeated later this year — as well as other organizations, have tried to draw the attention of the public to this growing menace recently described by the Metropolitan

Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, as a "burglary epidemic". They have all stressed the importance of taking relatively simple inexpensive measures to secure the home, such as the fitting of proper locks to external doors and windows.

They even point out precautions that should be obvious, such as ensuring that all windows and doors are shut and locked when the home is left empty and that house keys should never be hidden in a "secret" place.

Certain locks may have to be fitted

In the holiday season, both at home and abroad, the theft of holidaymakers' baggage and personal possessions is quite common.

At some resorts it is endemic. Car parks, beaches, hotels and camping sites provide rich pickings for thieves who take advantage of the relaxed attitude and lifestyle of holidaymakers.

None the less, the responsibility to take reasonable care of insured goods remains. If you do not, it may come as quite a shock to discover on your return home that your insurance company refuses to meet a claim for goods that have been lost or stolen.

Ian Brewer

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which covers all forms of taxation and personal finance. In your own case, your wealth may lie in capital resources, or property, or income, or a combination. You may be aged 30, 40, 50, 60 or more. It doesn't matter. What matters is that we are confident that the Binder Hamlyn approach to personal financial planning can help you.

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FAMILY MONEY/5

Investment with a future

LIFFE

JANE ALEXANDER explains how individuals can invest in financial futures and options

One effect of Big Bang that has attracted little attention is the boost it has given to LIFFE (pronounced like, not like the river), the London International Financial Futures Exchange. Trading records have been broken all over the place, links with Chicago and Sydney have been forged, and overall volume in futures and options doubled last year.

Yet futures markets remain a mystery to most people. For years people have been trading futures in raw materials such as grain and sugar, but in recent times the huge growth has been in financial futures — trading bonds, currencies, stock indices and the like.

Institutions may use these instruments to protect themselves against unpredictable events. For example, by buying something into the future at a price fixed today, they are protecting themselves, or hoping to make a gain, from a price rise.

But for individuals, trading futures is considered more akin to gambling. Certainly, few individuals will have portfolios large enough to merit hedging. So how can the futures markets be used?

Suppose you are convinced that the UK stock market will fall in the next few months. How can you profit from a falling market? One way would be to sell stock index futures contracts — the FT-SE 100 index on LIFFE.

This is valued at £25 per full index point, so, for example, at an index of 1,000 one contract is valued at £25,000; at 2,000 it is £50,000. But you do not need to put up that sort of money to trade the futures contract. Futures trading is highly geared — and therefore can be highly risky — and to start with you need only to put up a kind of deposit, returnable with profits, known as an initial margin payment.

For the FT-SE 100 future this is a minimum of £1,000, but individuals, especially new customers, will probably be asked for a larger deposit.

Your view on the stock market is just over the next

few months, so you decide to sell the June FT-SE 100 (the yearly cycle is March, June, September and December). For simplicity's sake let us say the June contract is priced at 200 reflecting a predicted index level of 2,000. You are now short (that is, you have sold) one June futures contract at 200.00.

Although you may not own any stocks or shares you have a position in the stock market. You are short, which means you will make money if the market falls below your level. Suppose that the following week there is some good economic news causing the stock market index to rise — the opposite of what you want. The price of the June FT-SE 100 contract rises to 210.00. Your broker asks you for more money to make good the loss — known as variation margin.

The amount of this works out the same as the pricing of

Again it is £25 times every full index point — in this case 200 times £25 or £5,000. You can get all your margin deposit back, too, if you do not intend to trade again immediately but your broker will make a deduction for commission. The size of this will depend on the amount of trading you do and whether or not you require advice on the timing and direction of your trades. Get a few quotes — commission levels vary.

This example has made futures trading look easy. In a matter of weeks you have made £5,000 and that at a time when others were suffering as the value of their shares fell. However, do not be lulled into a false sense of security. The market might instead have gone through the roof and you could have lost a lot if you had held on to your position.

Although futures trading does not involve putting up

per cent bigger than expected.

To try to get round this problem some futures brokerage companies offer individual clients a guaranteed stop loss — that is, they will bear the risk of any overnight movements. But these guarantees do not come cheap, by any means. The commission charged can be so high as to necessitate fairly substantial market movements in the right direction before you make any profit.

You should also note that to make the earlier example as simple as possible no mention was made of the relationship between the futures price and the price of the underlying stock index. The difference is known as the "basis".

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In the earlier example, although the price of the futures contract fell 200 points, the actual index may have fallen by, say, 250, or 150.

What is the tax position on any profits made? Victor Levy, futures specialist at accountants Arthur Andersen, explains that for individuals any profits are now subject only to capital gains tax (there used to be some liability to income tax) and for profits made trading gifts futures there is no tax liability.

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If you have some risk capital and are interested in finding out more about the exciting world of futures trading you can obtain explanatory brochures and a list of brokerages trading on LIFFE from the exchange. There is also a visitors' gallery at the exchange from which you can watch trading taking place.

LIFFE, Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3PJ (01-623 0444)

Where records are broken: the floor of the exchange

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The news that sparked off the stock market rise might have come overnight or the rise may have been a reaction to something that happened on Wall Street when the London market was closed. The market may open at 230 the following day and you would be "stopped out" at that level, making your loss 50

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One way to limit the potential loss is to put a "stop" order in the market. In the example above you may have decided that you did not want to risk your position any more if the price of your contract passed 210.00. You could therefore place a stop order to buy the June future at 220.00. This is not always foolproof, however.

The news that sparked off the stock market rise might have come overnight or the rise may have been a reaction to something that happened on Wall Street when the London market was closed. The market may open at 230 the following day and you would be "stopped out" at that level, making your loss 50

per cent bigger than expected.

To try to get round this problem some futures brokerage companies offer individual clients a guaranteed stop loss — that is, they will bear the risk of any overnight movements. But these guarantees do not come cheap, by any means. The commission charged can be so high as to necessitate fairly substantial market movements in the right direction before you make any profit.

You should also note that to make the earlier example as simple as possible no mention was made of the relationship between the futures price and the price of the underlying stock index. The difference is known as the "basis".

This takes into account such factors as the dividends payable on the shares in the index (something you obviously do not receive when trading futures) compared with the interest you can earn on the balance of money available when trading futures as the initial deposit is such a low proportion of the contract value. This basis may or may not move in your favour.

In the earlier example, although the price of the futures contract fell 200 points, the actual index may have fallen by, say, 250, or 150.

What is the tax position on any profits made? Victor Levy, futures specialist at accountants Arthur Andersen, explains that for individuals any profits are now subject only to capital gains tax (there used to be some liability to income tax) and for profits made trading gifts futures there is no tax liability.

Note, though, that this applies only to trades executed on recognized futures exchanges as designated by the Inland Revenue. All UK futures exchanges are recognized and some of the US ones, but not yet the world's largest, the Chicago Board of Trade.

If you have some risk capital and are interested in finding out more about the exciting world of futures trading you can obtain explanatory brochures and a list of brokerages trading on LIFFE from the exchange. There is also a visitors' gallery at the exchange from which you can watch trading taking place.

LIFFE, Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3PJ (01-623 0444)

Where records are broken: the floor of the exchange

the contract — £25 per full index point you are losing. You are losing 100 index points (difference between 2,000 and 2,100) and must therefore put up £2,500.

As yet, this is only an unrealized loss as you have not bought back your futures contract — something you can do at any time; there is no need to wait until June. Much of the trading on futures exchanges is in fact day trading, where contracts are bought and sold the same day.

The story has a happy ending. Your luck turns and unfavourable news, perhaps from an opinion poll, brings a decline in stock market fortunes. The price of your contract falls to 180.00. Although June is still several weeks off, you were unnerved by the previous rise and decide to take your profits. You buy a June FT-SE 100 contract and so close out the deal. What have you made?

The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5% APRIL

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,780	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	18,178
1980	102,660	17,287	40,175	28,521
1985	270,800	49,474	56,233	40,164
1 Feb '87	440,320	64,343	57,172	43,503*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 25th February 1987 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	489.0p	640.5p	2.66%
Dividend Fund	507.0p	1517.9p	4.54%
SECOND General	886.2p	1775.1p	3.21%

Prices and yields appear only in the Financial Times. The difference between the offer price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 1%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 0.4% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
	20 Aug	15 July	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	20 Aug 1987	15 July 1987	15 Aug 1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remission of commission is payable to accredited investors only. The difference between the offer price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 1%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 0.4% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	—	—	£10,000	£10,000
1985	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,907	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	907	65,180	10,000
1 Feb '87	2,680	750	84,820	10,000
			84,420	10,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 30-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '86	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,340	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,661
1980	196,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,918	78,580
1 Feb '87	780,600	229,200	88,934	85,113*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating the date your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY	£	00
DIVIDEND	£	00
SECOND	£	00

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POST CODE _____

HCAI M&G

Pretty pricey party pieces

Children's birthday parties used to be simple affairs. There were games such as "pin the tail on the donkey" and "pass the parcel". And when it was time to go home everyone went off with a balloon and a slice of birthday cake.

But not any more. Today even three-year-olds and four-year-olds expect something a little more sophisticated and, as a result, the cost is not inconsiderable. To entertain a class of 20 children in the manner to which they have become accustomed could easily add up to £300 or more.

Jack Delvin is one of the partners in Children's Showtime, a management organization specializing in children's entertainment. The company was set up five years ago and Mr Delvin is well-placed to observe the changing trends.

He says: "These days children go to so many parties that parents try to arrange something different each time. There is an element of 'if little Catriona is having a party it must be as good as if not better than so and so'."

"Theme parties are currently very popular - puppet parties, circus parties, cowboy parties. The latest are space age parties and I've developed a space age act which culminates in the birthday boy or girl being floated in mid-air to the accompaniment of flashing lights and mysterious music."

Children's Showtime offers two packages: a one-hour show costing £45, and entertainment throughout a party (usually two to two and a half hours) for £65. Elsewhere entertainers can be hired for

Trend sparked off by social pressures

less, but the minimum fee is around £40 for two hours.

Another trend is to hold the party outside the family home, something sparked off as much by social pressures as the desire to protect the furnishings and fittings from the ravages of over-excited children.

The Hurlingham Club is a popular choice with well-heeled mothers in the Fulham area of west London. The orangery there, known as the Palm Court, is regularly hired during weekday afternoons for children's parties at a cost of £40 for three hours. The menu for the children's party, which includes finger sandwiches, cocktail sausages, crisps, fruit jellies and squash, costs £5 a head.

In north London the discerning go for somewhere like the Old Kitchen in Kenwood House, near Hamp-



Fun and games: Oscar Weiner in Halloween mood. He says: 'A child's birthday is special'

stead. The hire fee is £46 for two and a half hours. Food would include double-decker sandwiches, sausage rolls, cocktail sausages, cheese and pineapple hedgehogs, strawberry mousse and ice cream, squash and sweets. For 20 children this would cost £66.70. A special birthday cake can be made to order, and this would cost a further £15 or £20.

Even mothers who decide to hold the party at home may call in caterers. County Catering is just one business that includes children's parties among the range of services it offers. Ann Layton, one of the partners, says: "Children's parties have changed a lot. Twelve years ago it was all jellies and ice creams. Now everyone wants savouries."

Prices start at £2.50 per child and clients can choose whether they want the food served or just delivered. It is not just a question of getting the catering and the entertainment right for a party to be a success in the eyes of the tiny socialites. All the little extras must be there too. Apart from the matching tablecloths, plates, bowls, cups and napkins, there should be party hats and trumpets or blowers at the very least, not to mention balloons and the going-home or party-foot bags.

All this adds up. For a party of 20 children the cost of tableware alone in a popular range such as Thomas the Tank Engine will be around £10.20. Hats and trumpets will be another £6.92 and the party bags £1.50.

To stick to the theme and fill the bags with, say, a

Thomas the Tank Engine pencil case, pencil and mini-notebook, costs around £2.25 a child - £45 in all - making the grand total £63.62.

Helium-filled foil balloons are more highly prized by the cognoscenti than the ordinary ones - and they cost rather more. You can get a pack of 25 assorted balloons for 75p, but a single plain foil balloon can cost £1.15 and a star-shaped one, £1.40.

If you are holding the party at home there may be the question of seating arrangements. Mothers often hire tables and chairs - at Ken-

Church halls are relatively cheap

sington Carnival tables cost £1.50 plus VAT and chairs 40p plus VAT. Oscar's Den charges a flat fee of £25 plus VAT for up to four tables and 25 chairs and delivers free in the London postal districts.

Of course, there are ways of cutting the costs. Church halls can be hired relatively cheaply. Seating children on the floor, picnic-style round a large tablecloth, does away with the need for chairs and tables. Party tableware that does not feature the merchandised characters (My Little Pony, etc) costs less than the kind that does.

Holding a pirate party and organizing your own games such as treasure hunts is far cheaper than paying an entertainer to keep the children amused. Another idea is to hire play equipment such as trampolines, slides, tunnels, rocking horses and round-

abouts. The cost of these is between £2.50 and £3.50 plus VAT per item.

So far there are no signs that the booming business in children's parties is going to abate. Indeed, Kensington Carnival has recently started a mail order service for people living outside London and Fiona Hodgson, one of the show's co-owners, says there has been a "terrific response".

Oscar Weiner, one of the partners in Oscar's Den, agrees that the bubble is a long way off bursting. He says: "A child's birthday is a special occasion and parents are keen for them to have a day to remember. But it need not cost a small fortune."

"We produce a party pack at £1 a child which we will mail anywhere, which has the paperware, the hat, the balloon, the party bag and two presents for going home."

"Having a children's party is an expensive business but people don't think of it in that way. Probably, if they sat down and worked out the sums they wouldn't believe it. But money is not generally a consideration. And it only happens once a year, doesn't it?"

Lee Rodwell

Oscar's Den, 127 Abbey Road, London NW6 4SL (01-328 6683) and 15 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 (01-828 9300); Kensington Carnival, 123 Ifield Road, London SW10 9AR (01-370 4358); Children's Showtime, 69 Imperial Way, Croydon CRO 4RR (01-686 7655, Exs 415 and 416); County Catering, 01-440 5095 or 01-449 3407

£25 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1987 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £8,903. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £23,992, an extra £15,089.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £25 A MONTH BY 1st JAN. 1987

	3 YEARS 1 Jan 1983	10 YEARS 1 Jan 1977	15 YEARS 1 Jan 1972
Amount paid in	1,500	3,000	4,500
M&G Recovery	3,151	10,891	35,587
M&G Dividend	3,077	10,485	26,313
M&G SECOND	2,755	9,997	23,992
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,684	8,224	17,525
Building Society Savings Account	1,828	4,690	8,903

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

The Rules of the Plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB.

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ .00 (£25) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ .00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

AMERICAN & GEN. AUSTRALASIAN COMPOUND GROWTH DIVIDEND INTERNATIONAL GROWTH INTERNATIONAL INCOME JAPAN & GEN. MIDLAND RECOVERY SECOND GOLD

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

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YOUR BANK SORTING CODE _____ PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT NO _____ SEE YOUR CHEQUE BOOK FOR DETAILS

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 191 Moyle Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (S&P M&G PLAN ACCOUNT) owing

Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) _____ the sum of £ .00 on the _____ day of _____ 19____ and combined to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month/quarter until further order is wiring from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments; AND PAY TO: _____

ADDRESS _____ SIGNATURE _____

THE M&G GROUP

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Buy MONEY OBSERVER this month. It could well be the best investment you'll ever make.



NO DISCERNING INVESTOR SHOULD BE WITHOUT IT

FAMILY MONEY 7

You can always pay to silence the neighbours

People who are prepared to pay a very high price for a house and extra for a survey to be sure about its condition, often take no trouble at all to ascertain who their neighbours will be. Yet "nuisance" from those who live in adjoining premises is often a source of friction, stress and even litigation.

There is no quick release from troublesome neighbours. Even when discreet inquiries reveal that the people on either side of your proposed purchase are solid citizens, they could depart soon after your arrival.

They might be followed by a group who arrive with their friends on the noisiest of motor cycles to practise the noisiest of instruments all night long.

Or your next-door neighbours could have hordes of hyperactive children. In their interminable holidays they pedal furiously round and round your windows, doors and paths on their matching hyperactive bicycles. Arthritic legs wobble at the mere sight of them.

Quarrels over the shared driveway

The detached country house standing in its own grounds is not immune from neighbourly perils. The market gardeners next door may switch over to pig farming. Its associated smells, though redolent of good Mother Earth, do not commend themselves to you or your guests. All of you having become accustomed to the succulent smells of the Sunday roast and the appropriate wine.

Then there are the quarrels that can arise out of a shared driveway. Somebody else's car continually blocks your en-

trance or exit, and the drive is used by heavy lorries for which the paving was never designed.

Fences, too, or boundary walls put up by new neighbours are another source of contention. And as for the water that constantly comes through the ceiling from the never-defrosted fridge or defective washing machine, waste pipe or overflowing bath... in the upstairs flat...

You yourself may unwittingly constitute a nuisance to neighbours with your overhanging trees or roots that burrow into adjoining territory. And the love you bear your cats may not be shared by the enthusiastic gardener next door, into whose territory they so often stray.

As for your Doberman pinscher dogs, although they have kept burglars at bay for years, they have not endeared themselves to newsboy, milkman and postman, all of whom give them a wide berth. One day the playful behaviour of your dogs might not be so construed by others. Suppose they bite back and sue you for damages they claim the dogs have caused - what then?

For these and other hazards of community life, where the services of a solicitor might be required, legal expenses insurance (LEI) is the answer.

LEI is a fairly new type of insurance. Such policies appeared on the market only about 10 years ago. This late arrival was due to an old law abolished in 1967 by which anybody not a party to a legal action could not contribute to the costs of the parties involved.

Even when the first LEI policies arrived on the market in 1977, they were hardly a resounding success. Insurers had to be careful that policies were not being taken up by



people already intent on litigation. Further, solicitors opposed them because they felt that such insurance could disrupt the traditional client-solicitor relationship.

These problems were ironed out and two forms of legal protection insurance emerged - commercial and personal. Both have several subsections and can be bought as policies in their own right or as add-on schemes to other policies such as legal costs for motor insurance.

Although these add-on schemes are very cheap, sometimes as little as £5, the price and cover must be seen in relation to the cost of the whole insurance.

Family legal protection is one subsection of personal insurance. La Defense Automobile et Sportive, now better known as DAS, was a pioneer in this field and offers insurance to cover the costs involved in protecting your legal

Protection offered is quite extensive

rights in and out of court up to a maximum of £25,000.

Policyholder and parents spouse and children under 21 who live with him or her are included. Expenses covered include solicitors' and barristers' fees and opponents' costs if awarded in a civil case. Any damages awarded to the policyholder are paid in full.

The protection offered is quite extensive. It goes far beyond neighbour nuisance and includes the pursuit of claims for wrongful dismissal, and the sale or hire of faulty goods, as well as protecting

legal rights on the ownership or peaceful occupation of the family home.

Check the exclusion clauses of any legal protection policy you take out. They vary with different companies. The most common exclusions (DAS) are disputes over divorce, cohabitation and inheritance; matters relating to business, profession or trade; and disputes about your home arising within the first three months of the first period of insurance.

This time limit is designed to prevent a proposer who knows he will be involved in legal action from taking out family legal protection cover to meet those expenses. This in the insurance company's eyes is akin to arranging motor insurance after an accident. Premiums for general and consumer protection, which includes family legal protection, costs £60 a year.

Other companies such as Hambro Legal Protection or John Holman specify different benefits and exclusions, and Legal Benefits Ltd offers maximum legal expenses for divorce or separation of £250 after one year and £1,000 in later years.

Civil litigation is increasing by 10 to 15 per cent a year. Legal protection insurance is regarded, therefore, as a necessary cover by a growing number of home-owners and tenants as well as people in business.

It is perhaps even more vital now that the levels of legal aid are so low that only the very poor, or the very rich, can afford to take legal action to protect their rights.

Jennie Hawthorne



Looking after the private investor is not just about managing a portfolio successfully.

For years we have also provided comprehensive advice on overall asset disposition and tax-structuring - long before the private investor became fashionable.

As a result we now have probably the best thought-out range of investment management and tax-savings services available for substantial investors.

Put us to the test; telephone or write to Nicolas Bowater to find out how you can make use of our services.

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Golden years can be poverty years



Retirement is not the best time of your life, say 50 per cent of Britain's retired people. This came from a newly published MORI survey using the symbol above and commissioned by Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Of the 490 people interviewed for the survey up and down the country, 34 per cent mentioned lack of money or the cost of living as the biggest drawback to being retired. In a third of households the main wage earner would have preferred to continue working full-time and 44 per cent of widows and widowers say they had not made enough financial provision.

Inflation, unexpected costs,

poor budgeting and a lack of financial advice were seen as the most notable barriers to a happy retirement. Throughout the report there are many signs that respondents with an income of more than £5,000 a year were more likely to be enjoying their retirement than those with an income of less than £5,000.

So why is an insurance company paying for an expensive survey, apart from its claim that it is an important piece of social research? It is trying to drum up more pensioners business, of course, and here again it is supported by two-thirds of the survey's respondents, who recommend preparation for retirement before the age of 55.

But Scottish Amicable need not feel shy about drumming up more business. Its pension investment performance puts it among the market leaders.

Peter Gartland

Campaign for Real Advice

Serious beer drinkers used to campaign for real ale. Now there is a campaign to persuade us to use independent financial advice. And it's big business.

A group of 12 life assurance companies, including such big names as Norwich Union and Scottish Widows, has agreed a publicity budget of £6.5 million to increase consumer awareness of the value of consulting an independent adviser.

The Campaign for Independent Financial Advice (CAMIFA) has come about as a by-product of the Financial Services Act, which will make business life more expensive for insurance brokers and other financial intermediaries who will have to comply with detailed legal requirements.

The fear among the life companies, which have traditionally been able to rely on a flow of business from these intermediaries, is that many of them will find the new requirements so onerous that they will give up their independence and join up with one of the big direct-selling insurance groups such as Abbey Life or Allied Dunbar.

Result? Severe cut-back in business for Norwich Union, Scottish Widows and the rest.

Which is why CAMIFA members are prepared to pay for a multi-million-pound television campaign to persuade members of the public of the benefits of obtaining independent financial advice.

PG

FRAMLINGTON

MONTHLY INCOME FUND

Income and Growth
from the Management Group of 1987.

Framlington Monthly Income Fund can replace a complete portfolio of shares and unit trusts in a highly convenient and well-managed form. Its objective is growth of both income and capital in just one unit trust giving a wide spread of shares (currently 100). It offers a regularly increasing monthly income and an excellent performance record.

GROWING INCOME

The current net monthly payment is 0.25p per unit, up from 0.20p per unit when the fund started in October 1984. We aim to increase the monthly distributions steadily and regularly.

CAPITAL GROWTH

The fund's capital growth has been excellent. From the launch of the fund in October 1984 to 24th February the price of units had risen from 50p to 108.0p, a rise of 116 per cent on an offer-to-offer basis and 104.2 per cent on an offer-to-bid basis. In practical terms this means that an original investment of £2,000 is now worth £4,084 and you would have done much better than in the market as a whole: over the same period the FT All-Share Index rose just 80.8 per cent.

In the year to 1st February 1987, Monthly Income Fund was one of the two best performing of all 104 equity income unit trusts (source: OPAL).

FRAMLINGTON

Based on the performance of all our trusts over the five years to the end of 1986, Framlington have been made Management Group of 1987 by *What Investment* magazine. We were also their Group of the Year in 1984, were *Observer* and *Sunday Telegraph* Managers of the Year in 1982, *Observer* Managers of the Year in 1981, and in 1978 were *Observer* Small Unit Trust Managers of the Year. From small beginnings in 1969 the Group's funds under management in unit trusts, investment trusts, pension funds and private client accounts now exceed £1.5 billion.

HOW TO INVEST

To invest in Framlington Monthly Income Fund, complete the application form and send it to us with your cheque. The details of your bank account must be included. Units will be allocated

to you at the price ruling when we receive your application, rounded up in your favour to the nearest whole unit.

The minimum initial investment is £2,000. The minimum for subsequent additions is £1,000. All investments of £10,000 or more qualify for a bonus of 1 per cent additional units.

EXCHANGING SHARES OR UNITS

It is possible to exchange an existing portfolio of unit trusts or shares for units in Framlington Monthly Income Fund. Shares are exchanged free of all commission and expenses; when unit trusts are exchanged there is a 1 per cent bonus. Details are given in the *Framlington Unit Trust Guide*, available on request: telephone 01-628 5181.

INCOME PAYMENTS

Each income distribution is on the 5th of the month. Your payment is made directly into your bank by computer transfer according to the instructions given on your application form.

The first income payment will be made on the next distribution date after your units have been held for one month. The net payment on the distribution day on 5th February was 0.25p per unit. The estimated gross annual yield on

23rd February was 4.16 per cent.

Income payments are kept as even as possible with the aim of increasing them gradually. Regular increases are expected, but not guaranteed.

Investors are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. All unit trust investment should be regarded as long term.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Framlington Monthly Income Fund is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

Applications will be acknowledged by contract note. Certificates will be sent by the Registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within six weeks.

Prices are published daily in *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Financial Times*. Unitholders receive a report of the fund every April.

The annual charge is 4 per cent (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed includes powers to increase this to a maximum of 1 per cent if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 5 per cent.

Units can be sold back to the managers at any time. Payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the remitted certificate.

Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request.

Distributions are paid net of basic rate tax on the 5th of each month into bank accounts within the BACS system, to which all UK clearing banks belong. Tax credit vouchers are sent periodically to unitholders' banks.

The Managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone: 01-628 5181. Registered in England No. 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

I/We wish to invest £ in Framlington Monthly Income Fund (minimum £2,000).

I/We enclose a cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I/We am over 18.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Full first name(s) _____

Address _____

Monthly distributions should be credited to the following bank account: (shown in top right-hand corner of your cheque!)

Bank sorting code: _____

Bank _____

Address _____

Account name _____

Account number _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

(Joint applicants should all sign and give details separately)

FRAMLINGTON

T 28/2

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Pensions Management Magazine, November 1986.

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Which is why Pensions Management picked us out for special mention in its latest review.

For 5, 10, 15 and 20 year terms, in both single and regular premium with profits policies, we have been in the top 10 performers without exception in all the surveys* from January 1981.

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*Based on Financial Times Business Information's Self Employed Pensions Handbook.

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Your dividend, sir, and a little extra

The Chancellor continues to look at closing special allowances and may well start taxing share perks - whether they are taken up or not - as part of the "dividend". But on past experience he is unlikely to make this retrospective.

If the Treasury does decide to tax share perks, the measure may well be made to apply for those who purchase such equities after next month's Budget.

Concessions for shareholders are extremely popular and help to inform investors about a company's activities, as well as inviting loyalty to the equity.

Several companies offer concessions on books. David and Charles has special offers with no minimum. Pintos gives a discount card, which allows 10 per cent off at company bookshops and at Athena Galleries for 500 ordinary or deferred shares or a combination.

Perk may just tip the balance

Seymour, Pierce's private client director, Jeremy Lewis, recommends that an investment should be "of a sensible size" even when there is no minimum holding for the perk "as no company will watch with equanimity while its register fills up with tiny holdings purchased purely for the concession".

When compared with other companies in the same sector, a regular perk may be just the element to tip the investment decision. Apart from the minimum holding, consider the eligibility period, if there is one.

Some companies specify registration by a particular date (such as Appleton Holdings with August or Mount Charlotte Investments by March 1) or a delay before eligibility (12 months with Barratt Developments and Britannia Arrow Holdings and Cramphorn or three months with Courts Furnishers).

Several concessions are offered for limited periods and need to be checked with the respective company secretaries as they have the right to alter or withdraw them without notice. By offering such

perks on an "experimental" basis or quoting "for this year only", they hope they will not attract the Chancellor's eye.

Peter Saunders, head of the private client department at Kleinwort Greaveson, regularly updates his list of company concessions and will send it to readers who forward a large stamped addressed envelope to PO Box 191, 10 Fechurch Street, London EC3M 3LB. Seymour, Pierce and Co. of 10 Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA, also issues a helpful booklet, for which a nominal £1.50, including p&p, is charged.

Several companies offer concessions on books. David and Charles has special offers with no minimum. Pintos gives a discount card, which allows 10 per cent off at company bookshops and at Athena Galleries for 500 ordinary or deferred shares or a combination.

If you have a minimum of 250 ordinary 25p shares in Alfred Freedy and Sons, you can get a 10 per cent discount for purchases of more than £3 at its 200 retail outlets. This covers not only books but also toys, games, china, glassware, confectionery, stationery and craft materials. Routledge and Kegan Paul gives a discount as high as 25 per cent on all its books for a minimum 250 ordinary shares.

Calculators and computers are discounted for shareholders with Boots (£10 worth of vouchers) and Fobel International (various discounts up to 25 per cent for no minimum holding).

Several companies offer perks relating to clothing. They include Alexon Group (15 per cent off for 1,000 ordinary shares minimum), Austin Reed (15 per cent on 500 ordinary or "A" ordinary shares), N. Brown Investments (20 per cent), Burton (12.5 per cent off at such shops as Evans, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Principles and Debenhams), and Moss Bros (10 per cent).

Travel companies feature strongly in the list of firms giving concessions. Barclays Unicorn gives 10 per cent off particular Cunard cruises for

all unitholders with no minimum. Bass gives the same percentage off holidays at both Pontins UK and Holiday Club International. and Ladbroke gives a discount of up to 25 per cent on weekend breaks, as well as £15 on a DIY purchase of more than £115 at Texas Homecare.

Motor vehicles feature in discounts from several companies. This can amount to 14 per cent with Alexanders Holdings for a minimum 2,000 ordinary shares. Com-

ponents are also discounted, such as half price on all Britax seat belts and child safety equipment for BSG International shareholders, with no minimum holding.

Housing is even included. Barratt Developments will give discounts on a new property of £500 per £25,000 of the cost. Double glazing and a fitted kitchen can be discounted up to 15 per cent by the Hawley Group for a minimum 500 shares, while the London and Northern

Group gives 17.5 per cent off Westchester double glazing replacement windows and patio and residential doors for a 250 ordinary or preference shareholding.

As the accompanying table shows, the range of share perks is immense and offers an attractive bonus with one's investment.

Conal Gregory

The author is *Conservative MP for York*

Equity	Minimum holding	Approx value £	Concession
Accell Car	1,000 ord	120	50% commission rebate on investment bonds, unit trusts, insurance and legal assistance
All-England Tennis	Two £50 non-interest debentures	16,400	One free Centre Court ticket with private lounge and reserved car park
Allied Lyons	None		Meal voucher, holiday discounts, allowance on wines, beers and spirits
Ann Street Brewery	100 ord	700	25% discount on food and beverages at de luxe St Peter's Park Hotel, Guernsey
Appleton Holdings	2,500 ord	370	Five Bonhams vouchers for free accommodation for two at any 124 hotels for one to 14 nights
Aspray	1,025 ord	6,500	15% discount
Austin Reed	500 ord or 500 'A' ord	1,780 950	15% discount on men's wear, ladies' wear, sportswear and footwear
Barr and Wallace Arnold Trust	250 ord or 'A' ord	545 350	7.5% discount on tour holidays and 5% at company's hotel in Torquay; 10% on Vauxhall/Opel, VW/Audi and Ford motor cars
Bayway	1,000 ord	1,650	£500-£2,500 discount on new Bayway house; 10% discount on Nixon kitchen units and restoratory tables
Berry Birch and Noble (USA)	500	1,400	10% discount on household insurance
Britannia Arrow	1,000 ord	1,500	2% discount on Britannia unit trusts
Cable's	None		10% discount on Rosebys curtains and household textiles, plus other offers
Courts Furnishers	100 ord or 'A' ord	210 155	10% discount
Cramphorn (USA)	600 ord	2,550	10% discount on cash purchases from company's garden centres and pet and garden shops
Crown House	250 ord	500	15% discount off retail tailors, including Edinburgh crystal
DFDS Seaways	None		25% off ferry fares
Edridge Pope	None		10% discount on selected wines
Emess Lighting	100 ord	320	Maximum 35% discount on light fittings
Faller, Smith and Turner	None		5% discount on wines, delivered free mainland Britain
GHA Group	None		Free admission to shareholder and guest to greyhound racing and 22 complimentary drinks
Gieves Group	600 ord	880	20% discount on clothing and footwear from Gieves and Hawkes
Goldsmiths Group	250 ord	690	15% off jewellery; 20% off group's hotel prices; 5% off insurance
Grand Metropolitan	None		15% off wine and spirit case, meal voucher in Bari Inn; 15% off spectacles etc
Greenall Whitley	None		10% off hotel prices, free admission to gold tournament at The Bally
Hillards	200 ord	340	£15 vouchers in Hillards supermarkets, excluding petrol and cigarettes
Horton Travel	750 ord	1,100	10% discount
Kalon Group	None		25% discount on paint and wallpaper
Kennedy Brookes	500 ord	1,350	20% off restaurant and hotel meals, including Whistlers, Mann and Franco; two free tickets to Henley Festival of Music and Arts
Kwik-Fit	100 ord	100	One 10% discount per year on tyres, exhausts, radiators etc
LWT Holdings	None		5% to 10% off holiday bookings made through Page & May
Ladbroke Group	None		10% off hotels and meals; 15% off special interest breaks
Lonrho	100 ord	250	25% discount at UK hotels; 15% off bed linen and curtains from Bradford outlets
Mellorware Int (USA)	250 ord	180	12.5% off non-stick Teflon saucepans and electrical items
Merrydown (USA)	None		20% off wines and spirits from company range
Moss Bros	250 ord	1,500	10% discount on hire and purchase of shoes, clothing and sporting goods
Nest	500 ord	1,200	25% off Hapworth or Nest purchase annually
Norcross	None		10% discount card for building supplies and home improvement materials
P&O	200 ord or 500 pld	1,100 750	30% off Orkney and Shetland fares
Rank Org	750 ord	4,000	10% off Wings holidays, OSI, Elemen, Butlers, five London hotels
Riley Leisure	None		20% discount on snooker cues, billiard tables and snooker tables
Savoy Group	None		£10 per night discount on Savoy Weekend

Sources: Kleinwort Greaveson and Seymour, Pierce

£10,000?

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If you've got £10,000 to invest, then come to Britannia.

If you've got £25,000 or more, then don't waste a second.

Our Trident Super Gold and Trident Super Gold Plus accounts pay outstandingly high rates of interest - without any strings attached.

Both accounts give you instant access† to all of your investment without loss or penalty.

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So take a look at the terms and conditions of our high interest accounts.

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We're confident you won't find a better all-round deal for your investment from any other national building society.



With £10,000 to invest you could earn

8.90%	12.54%
NET	GROSS EQUIVALENT

Minimum initial investment: £10,000. Monthly income option at 8.56% net (8.90% CAR). Rates may vary. *Gross equivalent assuming basic rate tax.

With £25,000 to invest you could earn

9.05%	12.75%
NET	GROSS EQUIVALENT

Minimum initial investment: £25,000. Monthly income option at 8.65% net (9.05% CAR). Rates may vary. *Gross equivalent assuming basic rate tax.

Please tick appropriate box.

I/We enclose cheque no. _____ value of _____

to open a: ☐ Trident Super Gold Account (min. investment £10,000) ☐

Trident Super Gold Plus Account (min. investment £25,000) ☐

Maximum investment £250,000 per account.

I would like my interest paid: ☐ Annually ☐ Monthly

Interest to be: ☐ Added to the account ☐ Paid into my/our Britannia Account no. _____

If you require payment by cheque (annual interest only) or direct to a Bank account, please give details in writing.

Please send me full details of the following alternative instant access investment accounts:-

☐ Trident Gold Account (8.15% net, min. investment £250)

☐ Trident Gold Plus Account (8.65% net, min. investment £5,000)

If you are not ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes you may be able to receive your interest paid gross.

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Full Name(s) Mr/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Post to: Britannia Building Society, FREEPOST, Newton House, Leek, Staffs ST13 5ND.

If enclosing a cheque, you may wish to use first class post to the address below.

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†Immediate withdrawal up to £250 in cash, £60,000 by cheque.

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Please send me a copy of the Trinity Estates PLC prospectus

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FAMILY MONEY/9

Making the best of BES

Business Expansion Scheme prospectuses ranging from the sedate to the silly are now dropping through the letter-boxes of the nation's investors. DANBY BLOCH and RAYMOND GODFREY advise

If you are a 50 per cent to 60 per cent taxpayer, you should consider investing in one of these tax shelters before April 6. The tax relief looks attractive but is it really as good as it appears, and what are the alternatives?

The main purpose of the BES was to build up a venture capital industry and stimulate investment in new and expanding small companies. The theory was (and is) that high risks deserve high potential rewards and that investors need a little sweeter to attract them.

On the face of it, the tax reliefs certainly do look enticing. The investor benefits from tax relief at his top rate on the investment. For example, someone who pays 60 per cent on his top slice of income, will obtain tax relief of £6,000 on a £10,000 gross outlay, making his net investment only £4,000.

In other words, for every £1,000 of net capital invested, the taxpayer is effectively contributing a further £1,500.

Another privilege accorded to BES investments is freedom from capital gains tax on the profit, so long as the shares

are held for at least five years.

What does this add up to? Assuming 60 per cent tax relief, growth of 8.5 per annum, no dividends and indexation relief based on 5 per cent inflation, an investment costing £4,600 net would grow by 46 per cent to £6,722 over five years; while with the benefit of the BES income tax and CGT reliefs, the same net input would grow by 282 per cent to £17,560.

Of course, if the investment turns out to be valueless, you would still have 100 per cent

Safest schemes most popular

of nothing and in the case of the BES scheme, you would not even be able to claim capital gains tax relief.

Not surprisingly, the reaction of many BES promoters has been to take the reliefs that were originally intended to encourage and nurture high-risk enterprises and look for the most secure investments they could find that met the rules.

Also, investors have tended to flock into schemes that offer safety, preferring to take their profits from the tax advantages rather than the rewards of risk-taking.

So the history of the legislation has largely consisted of an annual tussle between the Chancellor trying to channel the money into areas he would favour and the investing public and their advisers looking

for ways to concentrate on asset-backing and caution.

The rules that hedge the BES are certainly restrictive. The company must be trading very largely in the UK (or as the legislation in a bizarre way says "substantially wholly") and it must not be quoted on a stock exchange.

The USM was originally not considered to be quoted but now it is treated as such; so trading in BES shares shifted to the largely unregulated OTC market.

Now the Stock Exchange has invented a new Third Market. It is not known how the Chancellor will react.

It is difficult to fathom his objection to the quotation for these shares because the investor generally has to keep them for at least five years if he is not to sacrifice his income tax relief.

The market really provides a way out only for those investors prepared to give up their income tax relief and look for other investors who have never had the benefit of it in the first place.

The company's trade must qualify within the rules. Various specified activities are now excluded - for example, dealing in shares, land and commodities, as well as hobby trades, property development where the company carrying it out has an interest in the land

or buildings in question, farming and oil extraction.

Not content with these prohibitions, the Chancellor last year introduced a rule that required that during the three years after the start of trading, not more than half of the BES company's net assets should consist of property.

Companies needing to buy property, therefore, tend to reduce their prominence of land and buildings in the balance sheet for these purposes by borrowing against

Claim must be made within two years

them and making sure that the resulting net value is exceeded by the value of equipment and other assets.

In order to obtain the relief for the year in which you make the investment, you have to make a claim to your tax office within two years. The claim must include BES 3 - the form from the BES company, stating that the conditions applying to the company and its trade have been fulfilled.

The tax relief itself should then appear in due course.

In terms of cash flow, the lag between the cash investment and receiving the benefit of tax relief can make a significant



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The choice widens, so does the advice

Investors seeking a little tax relief have an ever widening choice of BES issues. And just as the enormous growth in the number of unit trusts has spawned the unit trust adviser, so the BES business has produced a crop of advisers and publications.

The better ones can save you considerable time in deciding which issues to opt for. "It is a difficult business this year," says Robin Boyle, of stockbrokers Stancil & Co, who runs a BES advisory service. "Last year there were one or two BES issues which really stood out from the pack. This year it is like choosing the England rugby team - there are a lot of competent players but it is short of true class."

Mr Boyle charges nothing to investors using his service - but he expects them to subscribe through his firm so that he gets commission from the BES companies or their sponsors. However, no one is obliged to put money into any BES scheme he recommends - or indeed to do so via him.

The service also includes half-yearly reports on companies it has recommended. Information packs with full details are available from Mr Boyle or Michelle Kingsley on 01-638 3321.

No one could accuse the monthly magazine *Best Investment* of not giving its opinion on particular issues. It is a very sharp forthright

publication, incorporating a Hotline telephone number for subscribers, and containing a useful update on how well, or badly, past BES issues or funds are doing.

One slight concern is that although the magazine is often critical of certain BES issues, it is still prepared to earn commission from readers who subscribe for these issues through it.

An annual subscription costs £125 a year - although this can be offset if you generate commission by investing via the magazine. For more details call 01-353 0301.

A final source of advice worth considering is *Best BES*. The service involves thorough reviews of a number of issues it thinks are worth considering. It has also started to expand its coverage to include issues it thinks subscribers should avoid. One of the merits of *Best BES* is that it always visits the management of companies it reports on. The subscribers to the service have provided details of other BES investments and *Best BES* claims it will help them obtain proper information from these companies whenever it is not forthcoming.

There is also a hotline telephone number. *Best BES* is funded entirely through subscriptions - £85 a year. For details call 01-409 1111.

Lawrence Lever

THERE ARE TWO AWARDS EVERY UNIT TRUST COMPANY WANTS TO WIN. MERCURY WON BOTH.

OBSERVER

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS OF THE YEAR

"The two contenders for the main honour were Mercury (up 35.1 per cent over 10 trusts) and the Prudential (up 35.2 per cent over nine).

Mercury's top performing trust, Mercury Japan, is up 96.6 per cent, and Pru's front-runner, Holborn European, is up 82.3 per cent. Both groups benefited from inflation with each of their trusts.

Each had three trusts amongst the top five sector listings. And though the Pru's nose was just ahead in average percentage terms Mercury, arguably, had the harder task as the larger group. Its funds under management were £58.8 million at the start of the year (they are now £90 million) against the Prudential's £352.6 million (now £651 million).

"I therefore decided to split the award, and nominate both Mercury and the Prudential as The Observer's Unit Trust Managers of the Year."

For Mercury this is just recognition, not only for its efforts this year, but also for its well-founded reputation for steady and consistent performance.

"We have been running big pension funds for a long time, and we have got a tremendous team working together," says chairman Richard Bernays. "We have eight people in our European team, for instance, so we can actually do more work and cover the markets better."

14 DECEMBER 1986

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

"FOR consistently above-average investment performance not just over a single year - but over two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and ten years - I nominate Mercury Fund Managers as The Sunday Telegraph Unit Trust Group of the Year."

Year in and year out, reliability is essential when looking after other people's money. At a time when a number of investment houses are succumbing to the temptation to sell themselves on the basis of the performance of a single specialist fund over one year - and sometimes over as little as three months - a return to investment fundamentals is overdue.

Richard Bernays and his team at Mercury, the unit trust arm of merchant bank S. G. Warburg, manage £940 million invested in ten trusts covering every major sector and type of fund.

Over three years - a more realistic measure than 12 months - they have produced the best group-weighted performance of any of the 30 biggest unit trust groups.

Bernays attributes much of Mercury's consistent performance to its formidable large team of fund managers - 65 in all - which allows it to look into special situations and interesting companies in much greater detail than smaller groups."

21 DECEMBER 1986

The Observer and The Sunday Telegraph don't make their annual awards lightly.

Nor do they make them for short term results. They look for performances consistently above average, year in and year out.

This is why we were pleased, but not surprised, that Mercury should win not just one but both of these honours in the same year.

For although our 11 funds now have over £950 million under

management, our highly skilled team has always concentrated on the fundamentals of sound investment which in the long run lead to success.

So if you're looking for a unit trust company to make the most of your money, you needn't take our word for the excellence of Mercury.

Take a second look at the quotations above. Then fill in the coupon or call us on 01-280 2860.

To: Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., FREEPOST, London, EC4B 4DQ. Telephone: 01-280 2860. Please send me details of the Mercury Unit Trusts

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7/28/2

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Up to 3% commission is payable to introducers of successful applicants.

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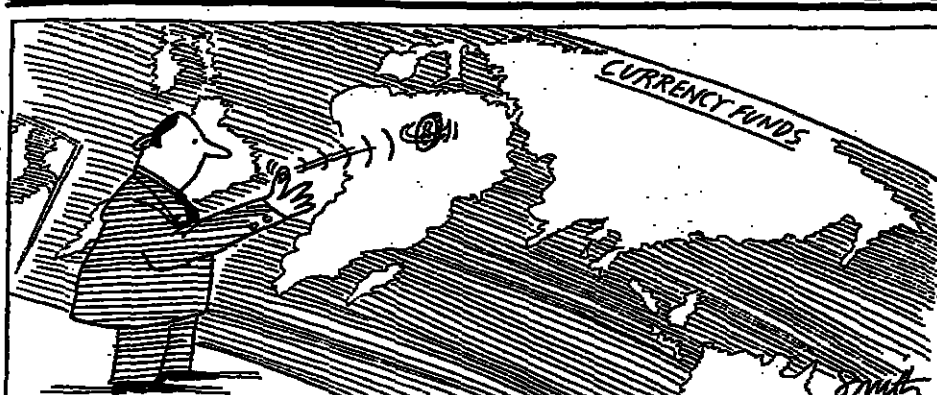
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FAMILY MONEY/11



How a dropping dollar can cut your share

CURRENCIES

Back in 1985 holders of units in funds invested in the United States were astonished to see share prices going up and their investments going down. With investment gains of up to 30 per cent some of these unit trusts lost money.

The hole in the bucket was the declining dollar that reduced the value of US holdings for sterling investors.

The experience highlighted the importance of currency movements in international investment. It also indicated the potential of currencies as an investment in their own right.

For those who have a need or inclination to play the foreign exchange markets the easiest way is probably through an offshore currency fund. There is a wide variety of them, though all but a few are comparative newcomers to the investment scene.

There is, therefore, little long-term record for the selective investor to go on. Fewer than a dozen funds are as old as seven years, and only about 20 have so far managed to put five years behind them.

Funds are denominated in a range of currencies, but mainly in those of the major Western economies. In making his choice, the investor first has to make up his mind whether he wants a deposit fund or a managed fund.

In the more common deposit fund the investor backs his own choice of currency. In

Law, Phoenix and National Employers Life (NEL).

Dominating the managed sector in terms of both fund size and performance is Guinness Mahon, whose two funds — Global Strategy and International — at around £250 million between them account for a large slice of the market.

The International is one of the few managed currency funds old enough to produce more than a short-term track record. In the five years to



Howard Flight: 'wrong ideas'

February 1 it beat the seven others of comparable age and turned an investment of £1,000 into £2,898.

The same fund topped the three-year performances with a gross return of 89 per cent on investors' money, and the Global Strategy fund was not far behind with 80 per cent. The two funds took fourth and fifth places in the one-year table compiled by the financial magazine *Money Management*.

The best of the 12-month funds was Allied Irish Managed Currency with a 40 per cent gain, followed by Phoenix International Currency with 31 per cent.

Over three years Phoenix turned in a gain of 74 per cent, three percentage points behind NEL's Sterling Managed and 14 points behind EBC Traded Currency, which separated the two Guinness Mahon funds over the period.

Maintaining the right mix of currencies in line with foreign exchange movements calls for a high degree of specialized skill and perception, and portfolio managers, like everyone else, vary in performance.

Currency funds are widely regarded as speculative, and some are obviously more risky than others, depending on

how and what the manager puts into his portfolio.

Howard Flight, of Guinness Mahon, contends that any ideas about currency funds being speculative are "misconceived". Performance figures tend to support the low risk viewpoint.

Loss-makers over periods ranging from six months upwards are extremely rare, and average performances compare favourably with many investments that could be regarded as riskier.

For instance, over the past five years the average return from the 52 listed managed currency funds was 118 per cent, over three years 49 per cent, over two years 20 per cent, and over one year 16 per cent.

These returns may not be spectacular, but Mr Flight says: "For a lower risk expect a lower return."

So who is likely to be attracted to currency investment? The answer is mainly expatriates who do not have to pay UK income tax on their profits. Currency funds used to be just as good for home punters until the Government stopped income being rolled up in them and taxed as capital gains.

Mr Flight, however, maintains that currency funds are still a good bet for investors with loose cash who are unwilling for further commitment to equities. He reports a strong inflow of money in recent months as a result of profit-taking from buoyant equity markets.

Customers include the Chinese

"But currency funds have a wide clientele. Among GM's customers 52 countries are represented, including a Chinese government body that is not averse to a quick pound or dollar from the capitalist-foreign exchanges."

Like Mr Flight, the Chinese seem to have "great faith in the concept". Mr Flight says: "We see it as trying to manage liquidity on a sensible basis. Money must be just as efficiently managed as equity investments."

He heads a team whose aim is to get the long-term trends right, and to "judge the main currency cycles and not be knocked off course by day-to-day currency movements".

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TM2/2



SWIMMING

Making a big splash in your own back garden

The swimming pool industry is growing fast with an estimated additional 5,000 new installations a year. Prices vary vastly from the municipal pool — complete with water slides, wave machines and all the fun of the fair, like the one to be opened by the Queen in Windsor on April 7 — to modest do-it-yourself.

At this end of the scale there are the home-installed pools dug out by the householder. On the other hand Yuppies may spend around £7,500 for a fully-installed outside pool. After the Young Upwardly Mobiles come the DINKS — Double Income, No Kids — who could spend around £35,000 for something out of the Arabian Nights.

Because of our thoroughly un-summery summers, pool enclosures for outdoor pools prove to be just the job. For example, to reduce heat loss when the pool is not in use there should be a cover. Some have a roller at one end which makes removing and replacing the cover easier. A basic bubble blanket makes an excellent form of insulation.

At the SPATA exhibition (the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association) at the NEC, Birmingham, from March 5 to 8, all the tempting extras will be on show.

Excess alkaline furs up pipes

As well as various heating methods — heat pumps, electricity, gas and oil-fired — everything needed to keep a pool in good condition can be seen at the exhibition. Chemicals will keep the pool free of bacteria and the algae that turns a pool green with slimy sides. They also regulate the acid/alkaline balance. This is essential because too-acid water eats into the plumbing. Too much alkaline furs up the pipes.

Magik Box have a new version of their chemical control system which "reads" and feeds swimming pool water, maintaining the precise chlorine and pH level.

Outdoor pools will, inevitably, be catchment areas for leaves, grass cuttings, and the small stones and earth brought in by naked feet. A small pool for washing off feet before entering the pool would be an easy extra to install.

It may be necessary to apply for planning permission before putting up a small changing room chalet, but if you deal with an installer who is a member of SPATA, he should be fully informed and able to guide new owners over the hurdles.

It takes only a couple of minutes for a small child to drown or suffer irreparable brain damage due to lack of oxygen, so safety precautions are essential. The cheapest installation, an above-ground pool which reduces the bulldozers' work, means children have to climb the sides

The technology for creating that hedonist's dream, the private swimming pool, is readily available, but questions do arise, such as 'how much?' and 'should I dig it myself?'

DIANA POLLOCK finds the answers



and are less likely to tumble in. Even if the pool is near the house parents would do well to see that there are railings and a locked gate to protect non-swimming babies.

There should always be steps leading down to the shallow end, or a separated paddling pool. Also remember to install some form of hand grip round the edge of the pool.

Most reliable manufacturers give guarantees and maintenance agreements at the time of purchase. Extras are whirlpools, or the real Jacuzzi, invented by Signor Jacuzzi to help his spastic son. Hydrotherapy will be helpful to people recovering from strokes, accidents or paralysis, and it seems sad that the Jacuzzi still produces sniggers in some quarters.

Not all whirlpools are Jacuzzis, but there are plenty of interesting versions on the market.

Provided the pool is near enough to the house a domestic boiler can be adapted to heat the pool in summer when the house central heating is not in use.

At the moment we rank seventh in the world pool market — not surprising considering our climate — so the use of heat pumps (working like refrigerators but in reverse, extracting heat from the air), solar panels and the use of Economy 7 electricity will help more people to have their own warmed pool.

The other innovation to tempt first-timers are sophisticated do-it-yourself pool packages, like Cascade's newest offering to be launched at the NEC this month. Their DIY pool kit could be used by enterprising DIY enthusiasts or by installation by a professional local builder.

Using this kit to make an eight by four metre pool will cost £5,900, plus VAT. Included are the filter, pump, steps, skimmer, automatic chlorination, coping stones, internal finish and maintenance kit.

Also included are the materials for walls. According to the manufacturer the job could be done — first shovel to first dip — by two people in two to three

Neighbourly virtues recommended

weeks. The wall structure is made of first-quality ribbed, extruded aluminium sections. Cascade offer a 15-year guarantee.

Just where to put a pool needs a lot of hard thinking. Neighbourly feeling can be stretched beyond breaking by the inevitable rowdiness of late night bathing parties. Water carries sound and the rowdiness by children's squeals of delight will probably wake next door's baby, who has just gone to sleep. Perhaps you should think of social problems associated with swimming pools in the same way you think about bonfires.

On property value, if other houses in the neighbourhood have pools, the sort of people who are potential buyers will take the appreciation of your property in their stride.

Allied Trades will be seen under a flurry of sun umbrellas. Furniture ranges from facsimile Abraham Darby of Ironbridge to seductive modern Riviera and good taste Scandinavian. Ask whether textile covers are proof against the chemicals on bodies which are damp from the pool. Don't accept any cloth coverings that can't be zipped off and on.

SPATA will send all their members literature in return for a stamped, self-addressed envelope from: Norman Lingham, SPATA, 3 Taymount Grange, Taymount Rise, Forest Hill, London SE23 3UH (01-291 3455).

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Trawlermen not entitled to redundancy

Hellyer Brothers Ltd v McLeod and Others Boston Deep Sea Fisheries Ltd v Wilson and Another
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment February 25]

Trawlermen, who had sailed exclusively for the same company for many years, were not entitled to bring redundancy claims, because their employment, which was regulated by a series of crew agreements, could not be construed as being pursuant to a continuing global contract of employment, since the minimum of mutual obligation necessary to support a contract of service did not exist between crew agreements.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing appeals by the applicant trawlermen. John McLeod, Ivan Margison and George Kemp, from an order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times November 22, 1985; [1986] ICR 122) allowing the appeal of the employers, Hellyer Brothers Ltd, from a majority decision of a Hull Industrial Tribunal in September 1984 that it had jurisdiction to hear redundancy claims by the applicants.

The court also dismissed appeals by trawlermen Terence Arthur Wilson and Robert Edward Johnson from an order of the appeal tribunal on November 29, 1985, allowing an appeal by their former employers, Boston Deep Sea Fisheries Ltd, from a decision of the same industrial tribunal on October 30, 1984, to the same effect.

Mr John Samuels, QC and Mr Patrick Hamlin for the applicants in the first appeal; Mr John Melville Williams, QC and Mr John Perry for the applicants in the second appeal; Mr Alan Pardoe and Mr Ralph Wynne for the employers in both appeals.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court in the first appeal, said that the policy of the European Commission included provision for trawler owners to take their fleets out of fishing commission in return for compensation. That step had been taken by the respondent employers on January 10, 1984.

In both appeals the applicants were trawlermen based at Hull, who had in each case prior to January 1984 worked more or less exclusively for the respective employers over periods spanning in some cases nearly 30 years. Each of them had served on the terms of a series of crew agreements which they had signed on engagement aboard a fishing vessel.

At the end of each voyage, including the last which in all cases had ended before January 1984, the trawlermen had not been dismissed but were discharged by mutual consent. In those circumstances they based their cases primarily on the proposition that there had been in existence a global contract of employment which had been unilaterally brought to an end by the employers' decision in January 1984 so as to give rise to a dismissal.

Where evidence disclosed what on the face of them was a series of contracts for service or services entered into between the same parties and covering a substantial period of time, it might be open to a tribunal properly to infer from the parties' conduct, notwithstanding the absence of any evidence as to any express agreement that nature, the existence of a continuing overriding arrangement which governed the whole of their relationship and itself amounted to a contract of employment. Such a contract was frequently referred to as a

Solicitors: Collyer-Bristow for Payne & Payne and Graham & Rosen. Hull; Gosschalk Wheldon Chambers Thomas. Hull; W. West, Wilkin & Chapman. Grimsby; Andrew M Jackson & Co, Hull.

Sunday trading ban is not against EEC law

Wychavon District Council v Midland Enterprises (Special Events) Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Millett
[Judgment February 13]

An application to refer injunction proceedings to the Court of Justice of the European Communities under article 177 of the EEC Treaty on the ground that the Sunday trading laws in England were inconsistent with article 30 of the Treaty was rejected.

Mr Justice Millett, in the Chancery Division, granted an injunction to restrain the defendants, Midland Enterprises (Special Events) Ltd, and Mr Edward G. Skett, its managing director, from holding a market on Sundays, contrary to the Shops Act 1950.

Article 30 provided that quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect were to be prohibited between member states.

Mr Nicholas Huskinson and Mr Stuart Isaacs for the council; Mr John Raliff and Mr Douwe Olijstra, of the Amsterdam Bar, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE MILLETT said that Wychavon District Council's application was for an interlocutory injunction to restrain the defendants from using, causing or permitting to be used land at Pershore Airfield, Throckmorton, Worcestershire, known as Tilesford Park, as a retail market on Sundays, contrary to section 71 of the 1950 Act of which imposed a duty of the local authority to enforce the Act within its area.

Evidence showed that for two periods last year markets had been held, attended by large numbers of people at which most of the goods sold had been sold in contravention of the Act. There had been deliberate and

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co, for Mr R. C. Rennison, Pershore; Hand, Morgan & Owen, Stafford.

With less than a month to the start of the Flat, Barry Hills's preparations for his first season at Manton are well advanced. Pictured here with his son, John, in front of the famous Manton clock tower, Hills already has charge of more than 100 horses and that figure will rise to around 150 when renovation work on the 40 boxes in the old yard is complete. John has taken over from his father at South Bank, Lambourn, where he will train 45 horses including Carol's Treasure, a Royal Ascot winner last season and a candidate for sprinting honours in 1987. (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

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Going: good

102	02:10	FOURTH TUDOR (D) (T Ramsden)	A Bailey 5-1-9	D Gallagher (7)	82	12:01
103	2:05:33	GREED (A Wilkinson)	Smith 5-1-15	R Rowe	67	12:04
104	113	THE A TRAIN (D) (M Oberstner)	M J Pittson 5-1-15	De Haan	68	72
106	6	ACQUA (J Verhoeven)	J Willems	77	82	12:05
108	4	DEBUT CUT (R E A) (B Laid)	O Sherwood 5-11-5	S Sherwood	77	82
110	000	FILM CONSULTANT (J Long)	J Bostey 5-11-5	S Shilston	25-	12:06
117	04:00-0	FRED THE TREAD (D Greenwood)	T Casey 5-11-1	E Buxdedy (4)	67	15-1
121	22:20	HILLS PAGEANT (L Thorneley)	F Whalen 5-11-1	K Mooney	81	81
124	WACOSY RIVER (T Ramsden)	W G Hewitt	6	6	6	12:07
126	03:40:0	NARCOSIS (F Hsu)	A Moore 5-1-15	K Moore	60	20-1
128	0-0	NOBLE EYRE (M Scott)	D Gaulton 5-11-1	E Waise	20-	12:08
129	PERFECT APPROACH (D Strawbridge)	J Baiding 5-11-1	P Scudmore	14-	12:09	
129	0	PRISM LOGUE (D Upstater)	M L Bowler 5-11-1	R Rowell	25-	12:10
130	0	SOMERSET (M H Aldred)	C Jones	25-	12:11	
133	11:22	SPECIAL VINTAGE (D B) (P Murchio)	Jany Fitzgerald 5-11-1	W Dwyer	50	55-12:12
136	STEADY EDDIE (M Lawrence)	Miss J Thorne 5-11-5	D Browne	20-	12:13	
137	01	VERY SPECIAL (E Lambton)	W Holden 5-11-1	K Townsend (7)	80	61-12:14
138	02:00	XMAS (M Rea)	J Panscombe 5-11-1	NON-HURRY	20-	12:15
140	PF	ACTRESS (D Eddis)	W G Knight	50	50	12:16
143	P	BALANCED REALITY (P Herring)	G Hangan 4-10-5	S Mitchell	20-	12:17
144	00	MATELOT ROYALE (M Butler)	A Devon 4-10-5	W O'Callaghan (7)	65	25-12:18
145	0	RANGLASH (R J Hladip)	D Nicholson 4-10-5	B Powell	15-	12:19

THE TRAIN (11-0) was 11/2L back in 3rd, HILL'S PAGEANT (11-0) a further 8L away in 5th. FOURTH TUDOR (11-0) 9th and ELECTROPEY (10-0) a first fence casualty. FOURTH TUDOR previously (11-0) beat HILL'S PAGEANT (11-0) a short head at Nottingham (2m, 2167g, 2nd, good to soft, Jan. 5, 1919), with XHAL (11-0) 16 1/2L back in 5th. CREDIT CUT (11-0) shaped promisingly on reappearance when about 20L 5th (subsequently placed 4th) to Scarlet Runner (11-0) at Newbury (2m100y), £2726, good to soft, Feb. 13, 23 rdg. VERY SPECIAL (11-0) was a comfortable pitter-to-post winner on heavy ground at Folliscombe, beating Droway (11-0) 6L (2m, £835, Feb. 18, 1919) a race in which NOBLE EYRE (11-0), making seasonal debut, was soon behind and pulled up. **Selections: SPECIAL VINTAGE**

202	2110-P4	COMBS DITCH (B.D.SF) (R Tory) D Esworth 11-11-7	C Brown	99 15-8
205	22F01	CASTLE WARDEN (CD) (M Shome) J Edwards 10-10-3	Mr M Richards (?)	98 F4-5
206	00/4331	LEAN AR AGHAIDH (C) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 10-10-0	G Landau	90 15-2
207	F04-02	THE CATCHPOOL (BF) (D Bitt) N Geselee 8-10-0	P Scudamore	93 12-1
208	3-P4P3	HOMESON (P Hopkins) J Gifford 10-10-0	R Rowe	25-1

FORM COMESS DITCHE a top class chaser last season, confirmed his well-being but was some way off best form when he (11-42) [4L, 4L to Golden Field (11-4) at Newbury last time (3m 2317), soft, Feb 14, 6 ran]. There was evidently something amiss with CASTLE WARDEN when finishing down at the second round, returning after lay-off (10-5) came right back to his best beating SIMON LEGG (11-3) 4L at Ascot (3m, 215322, good, Feb 11, 10 ran) a race in which HORSEBOY (10-4) in rear when full mid-way. LEAN AR AGHAIGH (11-7) made good when beating RIG SEED (10-4) at Cheltenham (2293, soft, Jan 4, 6 ran). COMESS DITCHE was in fine fettle after early mystifying last time, previously (11-12) finished 4L 2nd to Gateway (11-7) at Newbury (3m, 2293, soft, Jan 2, 6 ran) with HORSEBOY (11-4) pulled up. Selection: COMESS DITCHE

301	11101	ASTRAL (CD) (M Coshan) R Smyth 11-3	Dale McKeown	88	6-1
302	1111	NOON KNOW (CD) (Anthea Lutz) F Figs 11-3	P Saunders	88	10-1
303	2207	PLAIRE DYSTER (M Dorsey) O Sherwood 11-3	S Sherwood	88	10-2
310	1001	DEVIL'S RUN (D) (Mira T Buglin) T Bujalo 10-10	B de Haan	79	11-2
311	412	DUMPLORING (D) (J Tennant) G Moore 10-10	R Rowe	77	12-1
312	4	FLICK COURAGE (D) (M Dorsey) M Dwyer	M Dwyer	77	10-1
313	2012	FARMINGTON COURT (D) (J Smith) P Walwyn 10-10	D Browne	90	10-1
317	423	PLAID (P) (A Okeley) P Walwyn 10-10	S McNeill	81	6-1
318	1114	PRASIMA MATIA (CD) (W Norrion) M Gieselle 10-10	K Mooney	84	8-1
319	101	WILD (D) (M Dorsey) R Smith 10-10	J Jackson	84	10-1
320	2	NAYON VERT (T Ramsden) R Smart 10-10	G McCurt	80	12-1
321	UF	RUE ST JAMES (D Makyn) B Simpson 10-10	B Powell	82	20-1

[illegible]

2.15 Sharp Song.	4.15 Qurrat Al Ain.
2.45 Young Lover.	4.45 Lake Valentina.
3.15 Powerful Paddy.	5.15 Pollen Bee.
3.45 Hardy Lad.	

[illegible]

2.45 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £2825; 2m 41) (9 runners)			
1	32P/30P	POTNYZ PASS (B) (Mr Munro-Watson & Munro-Watson 12-12-1)	84 7-4
2	10233	YOUNG LOVER (B) (Mrs O Jackson & Mr O Jackson 5-12-1)	9 39 64-4
3	P9220/P9	CORRIGED (C) (Mrs A Vilar & Mrs A Vilar 8-11-4)	3 Coward 7-4
4	10211-1	JACK OF HEARTS (B) (Mr J & Mrs J Delaplane 11-11-1)	14-1
5	30P	BLAZE (C) (Trainer) & Thelma 9-11-7	10-1
6	10330/P	CAPE FEAR (B) (Mrs D Whitaker) & Mrs D Whitaker 14-11-7	14-1
7	10232/P	MARLED MAN (P Haze) & Fern 8-11-7	14-1
8	10231/P	WINDY ROAD (B) (Mrs J & Mrs J Delaplane 10-11-7)	14-1
9	10234/P	GAPE FEAR (B) (Mrs D Whitaker) & Mrs D Whitaker 14-11-7	14-1

3.15	LIGHT	SURFET FLATE (P Miesler) D Porter 10-12-1	G Miesler	20-1
3.15 LIGHT INFANTRY PLANT (Handicap runs £1,575: 3m 122yd) (12 runners)				
1	213001	BATTLEFIELD BLAKE (C J Epsley & Blunell) 10-12-1 (7m)	M Beesman	89 7-1
2	01-1121	WYTH BANK (B. Smith) 10 H B. Scales	P Davies	96 F4-1
3	11-220	BLUFF COVE (Dochus Ltd) R Holmstead 5-1-1.	P Dover	90 7-1
4	12-120	DISCAIN BOY (M White) C Trinder 7-1-0.	G Bradley	12 1-1
5	3900-11	BIGGAMBA (J. Rogers) Mrs G Rowley 5-1-0	F Hewson	93 5-2
6	01-120	WENTWORTH (R. Oakes) P. Oakes Fitzpatrick 7-10-12	J. Hewson	93 5-2
8	005-142	HAPPY NAIP (C.C. Mery & Ramond) K Stone 9-1-2	J J Davies	64 9-1

92-443	TEAM CHALLENGE (R Randomes) Mrs A Parnon 5-10-0.		92 7-1
21	2930302 DUCKY REBELS (G Wilson) G Richards 6-10-0.	P Tuckey	92 20-1
15	809-443 BUGLES (H Hunt) D Nicholson 5-10-0.	R Drummond	92 20-1
10	8090-30 BRIGADIER GREEN (Mrs D Hoyte) C Hoyte 10-10-0.		92 25-1

3.45 GRIMTHORPE HANDICAP CAUSE (#3,084; 4m 100yd) (7 runners)

1	P1/P1+P4 LAST SUSTENT (Anna Duchess of Westminster) F Forster 13-11-17.	H Davies	98 7-1
2	2012+60 ANDROMEDA (A Savory) James Fitzgerald 10-11-5.	J G Butler	3-1
3	1-222+40 WARDEN (J Hargrave) J Hargrave 10-1-10.	M Hammond	93 5-2
5	201010 COVENTRY GARDENS (Baker) B Baker 10-1-10.		93 5-2

103 (12) 0-032 TIMESFORM (CD,SR) (Jr J Ryler) B Hall 9-10-0 2 West (4) 85 7-2
 Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Sign-figure form (F=fall, P=pulled up, U=unseated rider, B=brought down, S=slepped up, R=refused). Horse's name (B=blinkers, V=visor, H=hood, E=eyesheld, C=course winner, D=distance winner, CD=course

402	010301	PAUL PRINCE (D) (A Mrs L Warren)	L Kennard 6-11-7	J Poyell	90 F&F
403	010404	INFELDER (F Taylor)	A Brown 6-11-7	G Brown	91 F&F
404	000301-9	ASHLING (E R Green)	G Brown 7-11-7	G Brown	91 F&F
405	03-93AF	DRUSTILLUS (M Nelmer-Crookley)	G Rose 9-11-7	E Brown	73 12-1
410	3104-1U	LECTOR (J Joseph)	D Edwards 8-11-7	D Brown	78 7-1
410	0-00011	MARINE (D) (R Orpels)	J Pritch-Heyes 9-11-7	Penny Pritch-Heyes	78 10-1
415	015-000	MISTER HATHAM (R Ellis)	J Edwards 7-11-7	P Scotland	90 10-1
3.30 RENDLEHAM HURDLE (Grade II; 25,552; 3m) (8 runners).					
501	010413	ANNOCH (C) (P Oliver)	Mrs S Oliver 8-12-7	J Duggan	90 F&F
502	11-4243	KECK'S PEAK (D) (Lord Soames)	N Henderson 6-12-7	M Bowdler	71 1-1
503	100-026	RIVA ROSE (W Galt)	Mrs S Oliver 7-11-7	N Bowdler	71 1-1
504	3102-1	SENGLE (M Serrin)	Mrs G Jy 7-11-7	S Brown	72 12-1
505	0022-04	BOB THSYALL (K Al-Said)	J Edwards 8-11-7	D Brown	82 12-1
506	02-3103	CATS EYDES (T Chanderler)	M Poy 7-11-7	P Scotland	82 1-1
509	19220-00	NEWLARS (S Thordal)	S Mott 11-7-1	G Landis	82 12-1
510	0410-0	MALALA (M Serrin)	Lord 7-11-7	S Brown	84 10-1
511	P-18261	SENGLE'S WELL (D) (A Taylor)	D Barons 11-11-6	Miles T Davis	86 10-1

501	1-1324	FURN TRAFFIC (C2) (Furn Traffic) 10-10-0		
502	1-1129	GLENNIE (D.97) (Coteville Group) T Casey 10-10-0	S Powell	98 6
503	121181	WELSH OAK (C2) (S Arroyo) D Genolito 7-10-4	M Williams	98 F7-4
506	2-33210	PRIEMER CHARLIE (C) (R Brader) M Hinchcliffe 9-10-4	S McNeill	95 11-4
508	08-1396	WILY YOSMAN (C) (Mrs H Anne) J Griford 8-10-0	R Rowe	96 10-0
610	629P30	CNOG NA CUNLE (D) (Anne Philips) D Nicholson 10-10-0	Anne Philips (7)	73 14-1

42	ANOTHER TROUP (R Townsend) R Townsend	5-11-10	Mr D Townsend	7-20-1
43	BELLA VERA QUINT (M Trudick) M Trudick	5-11-10	Mr D Townsend	7-20-1
44	CAL KANOE (Mrs C Fox) C Fox	5-11-10	L Harvey	6-18-1
45	CORNHIS SPRING (G Ridley) J Edwards	5-11-10	Mr M Richards	7-18-1
46	EROSTIN'S BEST (J Upcott) J Casey	5-11-10	P Harley	7-18-1
47	GOOD WORD (L Matthews) Matthews	5-11-10	Miss J Fiddon	7-20-1
48	PETER JACK (Preston) J Preston	5-11-10	Mr J Fiddon	7-20-1
49	PIONEER LION (Mrs S Pao) Mrs J McGee	6-11-10	D Skyrme	7-20-1
50	PRESIDENT'S PUPPET (Elmer Farm Ltd) Old Child	5-11-10	C Llewellyn	7-20-1
51	SADDLERS NIGHT (T Ramsay) Mrs J Pimpen	5-11-10	M Bowley	7-18-2
52	THE RAPIDS (Lord Somerville) N Henderson	5-11-10	Miss T Daw	7-18-2
53	THE RAVEN (M Hensley) D Barnes	5-11-10	Miss T Daw	7-18-2
54	PRIMROSE (G Johnson) N Henderson	5-11-10	Mr J Ralston	7-18-2
55	GREAT DESTINY (Mrs D Bryson) C Bravery	6-11-10	Miss A Henderson	7-20-1
56	LEWISIA (M Foggins) J Long	5-11-10	Mr G Peirce	7-20-1
57	GAMING ROTAL (C Ross) C Ross	6-11-10	D Morris	7-20-1
58	GARRISON SAVANNAH (Autocolor Eng) Mrs J Pimpen	4-11-10	L Bowling	12-1
59	LEWIS (Exports the Late G Prentiss) A J Wilson	4-11-10	B Dowling	14-1
60	MISS YU (M Pirny) J Gifford	4-11-10	S Neighbour	7-10-1
61	ROBERTS RACON (Barnes) J Barnes	4-11-10	Warrington-Brown	4-10-1
62	ROCK IN IRON (Mrs T Huxley) J Fitch-Hayes	4-11-10	Pussy Fitch-Hayes	4-10-1
63	JAY-DEE-JAY (Mrs V Maund) J Davies	4-10-10	G Hewer	7-20-1
64	SISTER-IN-LAW (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) J Webber	4-10-10	Miss J Henry	20-1

7	BOTHERN (A Waters) R Gow 5-11-10	Mr T Mitchell	20-1
12	GOLDEN ACRES (R Heston) M Pigg 5-11-10	J Lower	6-1
15	MANDARIN SHUFFLE (J Dobby) J Old 5-11-10	P Davies	6-1
20	WANT TO BACK (R Heston) R Gow 5-11-10	Mr H Phillips	7-1
27	NICK THE BRUFF (J Upson) T Gassy 5-11-10	Mr R Rotherwell	14-1
30	ROYAL LIGHTER (D Gray) R Curtis 5-11-10	K Traynor	7-1
22	RUSTLE (R Walsh-Cohen) N Handen 5-11-10	M Brawley	4-1
25	WANT TO BACK (R Heston) R Gow 5-11-10	Mr D Cockburn	1-1
26	THE DRAGON MASTER (R Walsh-Cohen) R Walsh-Cohen 5-11-10	NON-RUNNER	20-1
27	WAR DANCER (J McPoland) D Murray-Smith 5-11-10	S Saltmarsh	20-1
28	BISHOPS CHOICE (D Clark) W Whightman 6-11-5	Mr D Rille	7-1
30	DELIGHT (C Bravery) C Bravery 5-11-10	Miss A Newton	20-1
32	THE SHERIDAN (Mrs J Jackson) Mrs J Jackson 6-11-5	Mr J Rennie	20-1
33	ABBREVIATION (P Hopkins) J Gifford 4-11-10	T Whightman	7-2
44	JIM BOWIE (M Butler) A Davies 4-11-10	Miss Z Deighton	7-1
49	ROYAL ATHLETE (Quality Castings Ltd) Mrs J Phippen 4-11-10	Penry	28-1
45	TAKE THE BICKY (M Mackay) J Phipps 4-11-10	Penny Phipps-Hen	4-1
50	TEENAGE TRAMP (M Mackay) M Mackay 4-11-10	Ed J Macgregor	7-1
52	THORU (A D McKelvey) C Morgan 4-11-10	Miss M Leonard	7-1
53	TRASH FOREST (Mrs A Treasure) J Edwards 4-11-10	Mr M Richards	10-1
54	UNIQUE NEW YORK (J Bond) S Woodman 4-11-10	G Lemdaus	4-1
55	ASSAULT (Mrs A Treasure) J Edwards 4-11-10	Mr T Grawtham	20-1
56	MONSIEUR MAMESTIC (C Liddington) J Long 4-10-9	Mr T Grawtham	20-1

TRAINERS			JOCKEYS		
Winners	Runners	Per Cent	Winners	Rides	Per Cent
J Edwards	20	35.0	S Shelton	32	21.9
S Mellor	7	24.5	S Sharwood	48	16.7
W Walwyn	16	20.3	R Rowe	109	18.5
G Gifford	24	18.3	P Scudamore	175	12.6
I Henderson	13	17.1			
Mrs J Poman	5	16.7			
			Only qualifiers		

5	P01102	ATTORNI (RS) T (Maccella) G	Richards 6-11-4	P	Track	66	7-1
6	16487	REYNOLDS (RS) J (Caldwell) D	Nicholson 5-11-5	R	Richards	67	1-1
7	31F	ACCOMBS (RF) J (Caldwell) O	Shawwood 5-11-4	M	Richards	68	6-1
8	0200	XNAI (MS) C (Barby) J	Francisco 5-11-4			82	12-1
9	11991	CHIPPY (RH) (Callegham) N	Callegham 4-1-1-4 (Rec)		G	Brindley	83
10	5302	ERANK (RS) J (Caldwell) D	Shawwood 5-11-4	R	Richards	84	1-1
11	000602	ASBETRYMAN (MS) E (Els) P	Cummins 5-11-0	R	Stevens	87	12-1
12	133	RAFFLES ROGUE (D) (Reidm) M	Caraccho 5-10-13	R	Fisher (T)	88	6-1
13	04-03F	HIGHTOWN FIGHTAGATOR (Hightown Agency) R	Hodges 6-10-12 (Rec)	R	Alinsky	89	8-1
14		GREEN ARMY (MS) J (Caldwell) D	Shawwood 5-11-4	R	Richards	90	1-1
15	0100	REGAL STEEL (Steel Plate & Sec Ltd) R	Hoffmeyer 9-10-8	P	Dwyer	90	14-1
16	4-63390	THE LODGE PRINCE (J) (Quastler) Hensley Ltd	K Stone 5-10-4	J	D Dantes (4)	93	15-1
17	29-123	REEL GUILT (G) (Edgewood) G	Moore 5-10-8	M	Hammond	94	14-1
18	1000	REEL GUILT (G) (Edgewood) G	Moore 5-10-8	M	Hammond	94	14-1
19	25013	HAPPY BREEZ (RF) S (Hols) J	Wardman 4-10-5	M	Brennan	95	8-1
20	120114	GURRAT AL ALI (L-Col R) Buncial M	H Esterley 4-10-5	D	Dutton	99	9-1
21	10	WAVE GOODBYE (J) Holsat H	Waterson 4-10-1	S	Yousden	90	14-1
22	UPO	DOWNYSCORCENTRINE (J) Cascon E	Weyman 5-10-0	M	J Cascon (T)	20	-1

7	4	ALUMIN (Anson Ltd) W Wharfedale 5-11-3	R Paisley (7)	75-25
8	5	BASIN (A J) P Hales 5-11-3	R Stroud (8)	81-14
9	00P-0	CHELSEA MAN (B Robinson) T B&E 6-11-3	R Conk (6)	76-25
10	10	FRICKLEY LAD (Mrs M Scholey) R Scholey 5-11-3	P Daniels (4)	33-1
12	P00	HASTY DRIVE (R Stacey) J Qd 5-11-3	G Bradley (2)	20-1
13	2-005	LAUREL VALLEY (R Stacey) R Easterby 5-11-3	G W Pease (5)	75-25
14	F-0300	LORD SUR (J Thorp) D Moffat 5-11-3	K Trevel (4)	71-14
15	1	MOLUINGS (Tarleton Box Co Ltd) Capt J H Wilson 5-11-3	Mrs G Pease (6)	74-21
21	00	OLD MALTON (D Jenkins) O Ringer 5-11-3	P Tack (2)	20-1
22	00	RANI CHASER (Mrs V Selby) G East 5-11-3	C Hawkins (7)	20-1
23	00	OF SCHIFFE (P Barrett) B Morgan 7-11-3	C Prince (7)	20-1
26	0000-0	RUFF RIDER (Grear & Bell Television) Mrs S Austin 5-11-3	M Wilkinson (4)	25-1
28	000P-0	SNOW NO MERRY (R Speechley) J Bundeal 5-11-3	M Brennan (2)	33-1
30	0000-0	SUPER BAN (R Joel) J J Qd 5-11-3	R Lamb (4)	7-1
31	0-00000	TODD COTTAGE (Mrs S Selby) R Selby 5-11-3	W Washington (2)	81-14
32	00000	TOUCH LUCKY (Norm O'Neave T & S Ltd) T Featherstun 5-11-3	C Fairhead (2)	25-1
33	0	WOLVER DAM (W Iverson) J Leigh 5-11-3	P Blackmore (2)	25-1
34	10	TAPPEL TWICE (D J Lee) F H Lee 4-10-10-10	S Holland (2)	89-92

5	200-2653	ARACAT BOY (P Hinchey) G Lesters	5-11-3	P Tuck	90 7-2
6	6 BLACKCOURT	TRYNNIA (A Richardson) C Tristano	7-11-3	M Mengher	16-1
10	000	FORT ARIADNA (S McGraw) M Vigors	5-11-3	M Davies	13-1
12	P MERE	MAGE (S McGraw) M Vigors	5-11-3	D Wilkinson	34-1
15	00-1	POLLIN ENE (Mrs L Drasher) O Sherwood	6-11-3	R Douscher	7-1
16	02P43	ROONEY BAY (R Stodd) J Blundell	5-11-3	M Brennan	91 14-1
18	1904	THE KINGS (B Hazzard) J Cragg	5-1-2	P Deaver	89 6-1
19	000-300	SNOW BARS (A Hazzard) J Cragg	5-1-2	R Tristano	86 14-1
20	00-030	CROGHAN STAR (F Lees) F Lees	6-10-12	R Densmore	90 12-1

TRAINERS				JOCKEYS			
	Winners	Runners	Per Cent		Winners	Rides	Per Cent
H. Winton	5	14	35.7	N. Doughty	5	20	25.0
S. Brown	5	23	21.7	R. Lamb	5	25	19.2
S. Richards	6	30	20.0	G. Bradley	5	28	17.9
Jimmy Fitzgerald	6	1	1.0	P. Luck	6	48	12.5
I. Blundell	6	67	8.1	D. Duxton	5	60	8.3

Only qualifiers

The Ladbrokes Trial, a 3½-mile handicap chase at Punchestown this afternoon, had attracted five Irish entries for the Grand National and, while Monarque looks the one most likely to enhance his Aintree prospects, I doubt if he will be good enough to cope with two talented novices, Lastofthebrownies and Bankers Benefactor. Peter Scudamore was the partner of Lastofthebrownies in the Leopardstown Chase when he past the post 15 lengths ahead of The Million only to lose the race for having gone the wrong side of a flag marker turning into the straight.

The Ladbroke-sponsored event is the second of three races on BBC1, the sequence being initiated by a strong Triumph Hurdle trial, the Jack, Peter and Paul Drive Hurdle.

The Thurles defeat of Grabel, who got within a length of Full Flow on her previous outing, may put a question mark against the value of the form but the ground at Thurles was so holding that to believe the result should be disregarded.

cently could only run fourth in the Ark
rophy. Dromoland Lad, a good second in the
quest, should confirm the form.

Jack of All Trades, who still held every chance of winning when falling two fences out at Falkenham nine months ago, reappears in the Hambleton Hunt Cup for the Hunter Chase at Doncaster today (Brian Beesley writes). However, the overweight Alan Hill will have to put up many tip the balance in favour of **Young Lover**, third in good company at Newbury in the **Young Lover's Peril** is a confident selection for the **Sheppard Memorial Challenge Trophy** at Doncaster. He is a course winner and recently expressed when winning a division of the mixed event at the United Services point-to-point.

The Jockey Club has retained Arthur Read, one of the world's leading authorities on all-weather tracks, to report on the suitability of particular surfaces for similar racing in Britain (see George Rae writes).

Read, based in Canada, has extensive experience of the design and maintenance of all-weather tracks, particularly in North America. The Al Bahathri gallop Newmarket and Ian Balding's Bresnad gallop will be among those surfaces.

He has been Jockey Club the past but he has been formal basis. next month a report to the two months.

The Levy is involved in a lawsuit, although contributed £50,000 of his cost of his fee.

Selections
By Mandarin
0 ALBERT HALL (nap). 2.30 Mr Grapefruit
0 Atataho. 3.30 Caviary Clown. 4.0 Three
Counties. 4.30 Atuliki.

21:20: 2m) (16 runners)					
2	333	WINDROSE LASS (D) R Holder 11-6			N Coleman
3	24	FORE LINK (CD) C Holmes 11-1			C Coles
4	1	ALBERTA H N Handeson 10-10			S Smith Ellis
5	00	FLIGHT D C Esworth 10-10			R Anon
6	11	PERCY O'ROCK C Esworth 10-10			M Pegg
7	00	GOLD CHMP Mrs D Hoare 10-10			R J Pegg
8	4	GREAT GANDER J Spence 10-10			M Pegg
9	1	CUMMILL YOUTH D Wattle 10-10			P Wattle
10	0	OWIL CASTLE P Hayward 10-10			Foster Hobbs
11	24	RIVER BLUES B Cusley 10-10			D Morrison
12	0	TOWN JUSTER A Owsen 10-10			S Gidley

4-5 Albert Hall, 5-1 Fort Lino, 6-1 First Bill, 7-1 Windbound
ss, 12-1 Aunt Ismay, River Blues, 14-1 others

30 LUDDINGTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
844: 2m) (16)

2 000 GRAND CELEBRATION R Simpson 5-11-7 — B Whig

003P SHERWOOD FOREST (S) J Stevens 5-10-7 M Perret
12303 VILLAGES D Burchall 5-10-7 D J Burchall (7)
3041 SOLENT EXPRESS (D) B Stevens 4-10-7 S Miles
0002 RAIBET J P Price 5-10-5
0204 RUPERT'S DAUGHTER M Castoll 4-10-6 J D Doyle (4)
0044 LUCISIN (P) B Porpomo 5-10-5 A Carroll
0900 ST JAMES'S RISK F Jordan 4-10-5 C Smith
130P GREAT OWING M Brown 5-10-5 J Brown (7)
000 L'ETOILE DU PALAIS B Stevens 4-10-5
-006 CRAIGS VENTURE (S) E Carter 5-10-5
P040 CHAISE LONGUE H O'Neil 5-10-5 R Chapman (4)
4-1 Solent Express, 5-1 Andromachus, Craigs Venture, 11-5

3	2310	ROSTRA (D) R Amately 8-11-8	Mr M Amately (C)
4	3140	STUBBS DAUGHTER (JOF) K Bailey 10-11-2	
5	4220	BRIGHT MORNING D Grissel 9-10-11	P Croucher
6	2410	CRESON (BF) Mrs L Clay 8-10-3	J Abrahams
9	022	SANDWALKER Mrs M Rimes 8-10-0	J Lowrey
10	0900	CARRAL C Miller 6-10-0	Mr M Price (C)
			C Cos
2-1 Atabzho, 4-1 Rostra, 9-2 Creson, 5-1 Sandwalker, 11-2			

Going: soft

2.0 JACK, PETER & PAUL DOYLE (BBC 1)
HURDLE (4-Y-O: Ir£3,450: 2m)
(13 runners)

6 0124 TRANSPIRANT P Males 10-11 A Males
9 0429 AMATEUR (SF) M TOOTH 10-8 A
9 0430 J. J. 10-8 A T 4 Tynes
9 336 LALOR (SF) P Prandengros 10-8 E Tynes
9 341 SACEIN N Syme 10-5 P Syme
9 342 J. J. 10-4 A P Males
11 0000 PRESSURE Gage R Mckown 10-4 A Not qualified
11 0000 RAPIZOLA T Corn 10-4 A
11 0000 RAPIZOLA T Corn 10-4 A K B Whites

13-18 Fed Fall, 11-4 Master Don, 2-2 Basilek, 6-1 Chemical
Chem, 9-1 Transhomer, Royal Shepherd, 10-1 others.

FORM FULL FLOW has shown good form in last three
starts, including (10-8) a steady win of 10-8 (10-8) at
Lupacore, (10-8) a steady win of 10-8 (10-8) farther
away in 3rd (2m, 53604, good to yielding, Dec 26, 12 ran).
CLASSICAL CHAMBER, beaten only once over hurdles, last
start (10-8) a steady win of 10-8 (10-8) farther away in
3rd (2m, 53604, good to yielding, Dec 26, 12 ran).
TRANSPIRANT (10-8) a steady win of 10-8 (10-8) farther
away in 4th and 10-8 (10-8) farther away in 4th and 10-8 (10-8)
favorites but unplaced (2m, 53520, yielding, Feb 8, 12 ran). On

2.30 LADBROKES TRIAL HANDICAP **88C 1**
CHASE (fr\$8,050: 3m 2f) (14)
1 14P DALTMORE (GD) P Mullins 9-12-0 Mr W P Mullins

[illegible]

3.0 DINERS CLUB CHASE (11:10, 800: BBO 1)
 2m (4) 3

1 1-12 FIRST NEST Cnx 7-11-7 T Shortt
 2 F316 CONWARDS JOLLY M McCarney 6-11-7 A J O'Brien
 3 100 WEATHER THE STORM A Mears 7-11-7 T J Duffie
 4 F343 BRILLIANT TIME N Kirk 6-11-7 H Pflum
 5 F320 REGULAR D Hughes 10-11-7 C Swan
 6 1000 LAD AND LADY L Hudson 8-11-10 T Cassidy
 7 3120 PERISS VALLEY D 8-11-10
 8 F373 SALLA M Morts 6-11-7 N Madden

10-11 Weather: The Storm, 2-1 Dromoland Lad, 5-1 First Nest, 6-1 Bruges, 10-1 Regular Time, 12-1 others.

FORM FIRST NEST plays 2m 4 and appreciates some good ground over 2m here last time (22/20, Jan 25, 6 am). DROMOLAND LAD (10-6) on the upgrd and had WEATHER THE STORM (10-1) in 1984 when he 3/4L, runner up in Barrow Line (12-4) at Leopardstown earlier this month (22/2, 22/23, yielding, 6 am, 10 am).

Selecting WEATHER THE STORM

hired Cagnes double

Tulk landed a 41-1 double at Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday with Quiet Riot, who won the 10-furlong Prix d'Eze, and Prime Prince, who led all the way in the Prix de la Baie des Anges over a mile, having been backed from 11-1 to 5-2.

Quiet Riot, an 11-1 chance, misses the Lincoln and stays in the south of France for 10-furlong race on March 13. Prime Prince returns to Newmarket.

1 1UF3 CAVIES CLOWN D Bsworth 7-11-10..... R Amett
4 6122 GOLD TYCOON J Sparring 8-11-2..... A Webb
6 0008 ASMD (B.C) Mrs J Chadwick 6-10-12..... M Bosley
8 20F4 BIRD OF SPIRIT M Scudamore 7-10-12..... A Sharpe
10 00F CAPTAIN LOWE N Lee-Judson 7-10-12..... J Frost
12 P238 FOYLE FISHERMAN (B.F) J Gifford 8-10-12 Peter Hobbs
17 002 TORYMORE GREEN J Webber 8-10-12..... G Marnagh

6-4 Cavies Clown, 3-1 Foyle Fisherman, 9-2 Gold Tycoon,
8-1 Tormore Green, 10-1 Bird of Spirit

4.0 GAY SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY			(Hunter chase: amateurs: 2834; 3m 2f) (9)		
2	4371	THREE COUNTIES Mrs M Filmer 10-12-10			
4	0-01	CHINKSON R Davis 14-12-10			Mrs K Filmer (7)
4	0-01	FLEETING PASSION R Waley-Cohen 8-12-10			R Davis (7)
4	0-01	LASSON R Waley-Cohen 12-10			S Wankes (7)
4	0-01	LIGHT SCORP P Waley-Cohen 12-10			Mrs G Amory-Jones (7)
4	0-01	OPTIMUM D Nicholson 8-12-10			P Nicholson (7)
4	0-01	PADDOY'S PERIL C J Perry 11-12-10			J Deane-Jones (7)
10	334	SHAWMOOT BRIDGE C Shearing 11-11-10			

4.30 SWAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,203; 2m 6f)
(20)

5 33P THE DOUSE S Christian 9-11-7 — **NON-RUNNER**
6 2213 ELLERFARMEN (B.B.F.) S Mellor 7-11-4 — M Harrington
8 000 MILITARY BAND Miss M Davenport 9-11-1 — A Sharpe

15	6000	AMERICAN GRL R 8-10-11	S Smith/Enos
17	5353	NOBLE YOUNG (C) S Moller 4-10-9	S Earle (4)
21	6000	CHAZA (D) D T Miller 10-3	N Colomera
22	40-8	THE JET SET (C) J Jackson 8-10-3	S (4)
23	40-3	ATYRO Mrs M Ravel 5-10-2	S Macdonald
24	40-0	WEET BOB (C) P Durston 3-10-0	P Pichardie
25	00P0	NOBLE BLADE (C) A Nightingale 8-10-0	P Double
26	0-P-P	RAJA KHAN D Tucker 8-10-0	Seminole Dancer (7)
27	0-P-P	TILLIE B Phoebe 7-10-0	P Wall
28	0000	THUNDER TON (C) Jones 5-10-0	P (4)
30	0000	LEITCHWORTH H O'Neil 6-10-0	R Chapman (4)
32	PP02	TUDOR FUN R Morris 7-10-0	Miss L. Wilkes (7)

Course specialists

TRAINERS: S. Mator, 9 winners from 30 runners, 30.0%; D. Burchell, 8 from 33, 27.3%; Mrs G. Jones, 8 from 30, 25.7%; D. Baworth, 6 from 23, 21.1%; J. Webber, 11 from 69, 18.8%; N. Henderson, 9 from 56, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: S. Moore, 7 winners from 26 rides; 26.5%; S. Small,

SUNDAY

Edited by Peter Dear and Christopher Davalle

Pirates and the insurance man: Tyrone Power and Madeleine Carroll in *Lords of London* (Ch4, 2.55pm)

CHOICE

● That wonderful and mythical subterranean city, the London Underground, should be preserved as it was instead of being turned into something resembling Mexico City. The South Bank Show (ITV, 10.30pm) explores this strange labyrinth and shows how and where it has been the source of inspiration for writers, artists and film-makers, a rather mixed bunch that encompasses T. S. Eliot, Paddington Bear, Henry Moore and *Thunderbirds* puppets. Glimpses of the Underground on television and film are comparatively rare because

red tape makes it notoriously hard to shoot with any freedom. So this most distinctive feature of the city remains underused on screen as it is overused in the rush hour.

● **Heaven on Earth** (BBC2, 10.05pm) is based on cases from the beginning of the century of orphaned children being packed off to the New World where, despite being sent to good families and Christian homes, they were used as cheap labour. A young and unknown cast acquires itself well but lengthily establishing of period detail leads to dawdling followed by bursts of hasty story-telling.

C.P.

C. P.

CHOICE

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Sunday East. Magazine programme for Asian viewers. Followed by Deewarain. Drama serial set in a Pakistani village.

10.00 **This Time This Week.** Among the guests is Dr Joshua Nkomo.

11.00 **Worzel Gimmidge.** Adventures of an almost human scarecrow.

11.30 The Welftons. With Cyndi Lauper, David Sackman, and Hux and Cry.

2.00 Rebecca. Rebecca and the Ducks. The Little Chimney Sweep, and others in hand. Directed by programmes for the young hearing impaired. (Oracle)

2.30 Film: The Dawn Patrol starring Errol Flynn, David Niven, and Basil Rathbone. First World War aviation drama about a heavily cut down aerial group of Royal Flying Corps pilots and their battles with the Germans. Directed by Edmund Greville.

4.25 **The Within a Ring.** The sawdust and grasspeant of Gerry Cottle's circus.

4.50 Woody Woodpecker. Robinson Crusoe. Albert Robinson visits Ilfracombe in summer and winter. (T)

5.30 News summary and weather followed by The Business Programme on how Sir John Harvey-Jones turned round ICI, and how his successor plans to build on that success.

6.15 International Bedlamton. The Ladies' Doubles of the British Airways Masters.

7.15 The World at War. Part two of the series on the history of the Second World War covers the year from November 1942 to June 1943. (Oracle)

8.15 A-Z of C & W with Hank Wingford. Part two of the history of country and western music as seen through the eyes of Hank Wingford and his friends.

8.15 American Theatre. Where I Live? by Clive Exton. A domestic drama about an old man who lives with his daughter and son-in-law. The couple think it is time to leave and so she sets with his favourite son and his wife. Starring Ruth Dunning.

10.15 Film: The Long Arm (1956) starring Jack Hawkins. A thriller about a policeman on the trail of a sale-breaker turned killer. Directed by Charles Frend. Ends at 12.05.

artel No 1, Op 7;
erzhini's Quartet No 1

Felicity Lott (soprano)
 and the London
 Philharmonic Choir.
 Famous When the Sun
 Goes Down. Anthology
 of prose and poetry about
 the City of Cardiff.
 9.30 Egar, Duartet in E
 minor, Op 83, played by
 the Delme Quartet.
 10.00 The Sounds of Finland: The
 Song. Music by Kiamt,
 Palmgren, Kuula and
 Raafivaara (records).
 11.20 The Turner and Neil
 Smith play works by Pieter
 de Smidt.
 Michael Ball, Hans Gal
 and John Duarte.
 11.57 News

recently been officially
 listed, so that such buildings
 merit conservation in the
 face of development
 potential?
 9.00 News: Proof, by Dick
 Francis (3)
 9.30 Law in Action. 9.55
 Weather, Travel
 10.00 News
 10.15 The Sunday Feature,
 Explorers
 Extraordinary. 1: Don't
 Worry, it's Only Me. The
 adventures of Mary
 Kingsley, who in 1892
 set out to explore West
 Africa because she had
 nothing better to do.
 11.00 Before the Ending of
 the Day (a)
 11.15 In the Committee. A weekly
 look at the work of
 Parliament's select
 committees.
 12.00 News: Weather. 12.33
 Shipping
 VHF (available in England and
 S. Wales) is now to be used except
 5.55-6.00am Weather, Travel
 6.00-6.30 Open University. 7.00
 Art Review - The State of the
 Faculty of Fine Sciences
 Grapevine. 7.40 Technology -
 Bridging the Gap. 8.00-8.00
 Options. 8.40 The Future of
 Child and Education. 8.55
 Deutsch Express! 5.30
 Buongiorno Italia! (19)

Radio 3: 1215kHz/247mVHF-90-
 : VHF93.8; BBC Radio London:

Broken (S) 6.55
Leather: Travel
one 3.10 Sunday:

10.00 Newsday
10.15 The Sunday Feature, Explorers
Extraordinary 1: Don't Worry, It's Only Me. The adventures of Mary Eschig who in 1892 set out to explore West Africa because she had nothing better to do.
11.00 Before the Ending of the Day (s)
11.15 In Committee. A weekly look at the work of Parliament's select committees.
12.00 Newsnight
12.23 Shipping
VHF (available in England and S Wales) only. As we expect 8.500 MHz Weather, Travel
7.00-8.00 Open University, 7.00 Art Review - The State of the Faculty of Education Sciences
Grapevine 7.40 Technology - Bridging the Gap 8.00-8.00
Options 4.00 The Future of Work and Education
Deutsch Express! 5.30
Buongiorno Italia! (15)

Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m/VHF-90-
VHF93.8; BBC Radio London:

Regional: 11: on facing page 1

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m;VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF 92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

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February 28 - March 5, 1987

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainments and the arts

The orchestra that opened up

Next week the LSO celebrates five years in a permanent home, the Barbican, where rehearsals are open to the public and "meet the players" parties are a regular attraction. **Brian James** sounded them out

The midweek congregation at All Saint's Church, Tooting, is very mixed: ski-jackets and jumpers rather than Sunday best. Some of the men, lolling between the displaced pews, have the noble faces of craftsmen about to paint a mural on the church ceiling; others, the worldly look of men thinking of having the lead off the roof. Four play cards. Others sprawl on cassocks before the altar; like infantrymen, they know sleeping time is too precious to waste.

The clue to their occupation lies in odd-shaped cases scattered about the nave. They contain violins, cellos, woodwinds, brass; worth perhaps £500,000. For this is the London Symphony Orchestra, about to trade on the fine acoustics of the church to record another compact disc. It will be just one of the 650 three-hour playing sessions—concerts, recordings, rehearsals—that this ensemble will mark up in the year.

No one appears to be taking the chance to pray. Perhaps they should utter a word or two of thanks. Next week the LSO celebrates the fifth anniversary of taking up residence in the blaring-new Barbican Hall, the first of the capital's major orchestras to embrace the idea of a permanent home.

The pomp and circumstance of that celebration will be lit by the knowledge of how close, in those five years, the LSO came to extinction following its decision to launch, too boldly, upon a new artistic direction, which left its audience trailing far behind; and how it then endured an inspired campaign portraying it as a horde of womanizing, scarcely competent drunks.

But now brightness shines all about. A current winter

Sailors, poker players, model railway enthusiasts—the LSO, as its regular audience now knows it:

1. James Brown, assistant principal horn: the son of Andrew Brown, former co-leader of the orchestra, and father of...

2. Jenny Brown, cellist: advised by her father at the age of 10 against becoming a musician "unless there is absolutely nothing else in life you would rather do". There wasn't. The only problem about having a father on the same stage is catching his eye when the conductor makes a real blunder, and getting the giggles.

3. Sid Colter, first violin: the LSO's keenest sailor. Reads yachting magazines and plans his next cross-channel voyage during rehearsal breaks.



Main photograph by John Rogers/full orchestra by Peter Bloomfield

4. Michael Davis, leader: the man they call "Plan Z".

5. Terry Morton, second violin: sells string instruments as a side-line. He is offered a lot of violins German-made circa 1900 and labelled "Strad", all worth about £200, but reckons most LSO violins are worth from £15,000 to £20,000. "One day I will come upon something too precious to keep and too lovely to sell."

6. Peter Norris, sub-principal viola: the LSO poker champion "now retired. Well, perhaps not quite. We used to have quite a school; play became a bit manic. No one actually showed their violin in the pot... but it was close."

7. Henry Greenwood, librarian: former LSO violinist, he has charge of more than 700 sets of music each worth £250.

8. Kurt-Hans Goedicke, principal timpani and self-confessed badminton fanatic (he is a member of four clubs): he has 200 sets of playing sticks, recognizes each apparently identical pair and insists there is only one in the collection that will give him the note he requires to thread the colour, pulse and drama into the LSO sound exactly.

9. Anthony Camden, oboist and chairman: he led the fight against *Private Eye*.

10. Michael Frye, principal percussionist: "nipped off" to play pop music three months of the year with Mike Oldfield, came back with a Rolls-Royce. "The beginning at the Barbican was a disaster. Anyone who thought he could fill a hall with Tuppert so many times a week was bananas."

11. David Neale, stage manager: ex-torrey driver charged with the delicate task of carrying £500,000-worth of irreplaceable instruments around the world. Still likes music but "when I see it's bloody Mahler I groan. Two lots of percussion, two sets of drums... double everything to hump up the stairs."

12. Paul Davies, co-principal flute: has a loft-full of electronic equipment and composes jingles; one soap commercial to his credit.

13. Clive Gillinson, managing director: began as an orchestra cellist sitting beside his mother in the Philharmonia.

14. John Fletcher, principal tuba: between concerts can be found filing bits of metal for his latest model railway.

15. Maurice Murphy, principal trumpet: learnt to play alongside his father and grandfather in the Salvation Army and became a famous cornet with the Black Dyke Mills brass band. "There's a lot of cynicism backstage. A lot of the 'let's get the overalls on, it's only a job of work' as they put on the tails. But all of them are still doing what they most want to do, making music."



season, culminating in a Stravinsky festival playing to an average attendance of 87 per cent, came hard upon a tour which had a leading German newspaper declaring: "London has become what Berlin was until 1933, namely the world's music capital... there are three other great orchestras, but the LSO occupies the first rank." Thus a tangible sense of thanks-giv-

ing, like a harvest festival, fills All Saint's, Tooting.

What happened back in '83 was that the LSO, after early successes with audiences drawn in part by curiosity, were tempted by their own need for challenge (and a siren chorus of critics) to begin a series of more modern and adventurous music: six nights a week of Tuppert, Berlioz, Webern, Stockhausen, designed to draw in a new public. Instead it put an old audience to flight.

Some concerts were attended by only 40 per cent capacity; an orchestra for whom a loss on a year of £2,000 would have been seen as dire found itself with debts of £420,000, and mounting. Its landlords, the City of London Corporation, themselves under fire from those within who prefer Mammon to Mozart, were in no position to back losers; the Arts Council were equally uninterested in a bail-out operation.

The LSO players, totally self-governing since the orchestra's formation in 1904, had no one to blame but themselves. Which they did, and, indeed, still do.

Clive Gillinson, the orchestra's managing director, bustles into the church, his arms full of paper about forthcoming tours and concerts, and says of the Barbican venture: "It is the LSO being seen there, the same faces in the same seat in the same hall concert after concert, that has given the audience the sense of identity with the orchestra we are now sensing. It follows... if we are their orchestra, they are our audience. But we came very, very close to disaster."

Gillinson, who began as an orchestra cellist sitting beside his mother in the Philharmonia, owns up: "Most of us were absolutely certain what we wanted to do. But we were wrong. Or at least in too great a hurry. Suddenly, we were facing a change-or-else situation. And the or-else was to go out of business."

What the LSO then had to do was to re-schedule their programme, planning two concerts a week over the entire year rather than a month-long concentration; to switch to more mainstream classical music; and generally to "proceed at a more calculated pace while we waited for our audience to catch us up".

Michael Davis, the orchestra leader (whom other players call Plan Z: when they lose faith in a visiting conductor every eye goes to him, and he takes command on stage by body language), wanders off to the studio controls to listen to the morning's work. "Tchaikovsky Six," he explains. "Not bad. Popular stuff, always sells. Underestimating that factor was part of the trouble at the Barbican at first. We went there with the brightest of ambition. There was a lot of 'let's go upmarket... top-drawer... no more pandering to popular taste' sort of talk. Well we aimed too high, too soon."

"You can't put on Tuppert three times in a week. You can fill the place three times a week with New World or the Grieg piano. So why not do so? It is not that such music is

£17,000, making up their money playing advertising jingles, or backing pop musicians.

The next blow, in the midst of the re-building, was less explicable. The LSO found itself the target of a lurid campaign of denigration. There were stories that appeared in the tabloid gossip columns, but the harshest canards appeared in *Private Eye*, item upon item suggesting drunken boorish behaviour on tour, financial incompetence and trickery, absenteeism by key players. According to lawyers at least 33 of the items were actionable.

Eventually the orchestra sued on 11 specimens counts alleging libel, with its chairman Anthony Camden, the man most personally maligned, taking individual ac-

tion. The case was settled out of court; the magazine paid substantial damages, met all costs, admitted the falsity of its items and undertook not to mention the orchestra for a year.

"A triumph?" Camden says. "Only if you think that suing people is something that orchestras like to be doing. But we had little choice. We were engaged in a very high-risk venture at the Barbican. This campaign nearly finished us. It poisoned the LSO." He is interrupted by a signal from Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, the Russian guest conductor: the "take" is fine and the LSO masses leave in a rush to the pub on the corner. Two years ago, musicians would have selected their drinking companions with care. "Obviously," one of them says, "at a time like that you start getting paranoid about people, making guesses about who could be the mole who is

bad: it is great music or it wouldn't command such affection for so long. If all you want to do is put bums on seats and pay the mortgage, that's what you play.

"You will never get top musicians to play pop classics every night of their lives. They need a challenge. It's bad for the orchestra, for the musical life of the city if they don't get it. But the challenge must not be too hard for the audience. We learnt that hard lesson, the hardest way."

The LSO players, now gathering themselves for another attack on Tchaikovsky in All Saint's, in effect had to tithe themselves to survive. They each covenanted £10 per week to orchestra funds (bringing in nearly £50,000 per year). These were not inconsiderable sacrifices from the LSO's rank and file, who, despite that working year of 650 three-hour playing sessions, were being paid around

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rating on you. The atmosphere was hideous."

The effect on would-be sponsors was equally dramatic—at least two withdrawals of half-promised aid, involving potentially life-saving sums of £60,000 and £100,000. To this day the LSO have no entirely credible explanation.

The London music scene at that time was tense: people said there was one major London orchestra too many; that the Arts Council were considering withdrawing the sustaining grant from one of the four; that rivals were jealous of the LSO skill in picking up twice as much important film-track work (they did *Sir Wars* and *Charlots of Fire*). "There was turmoil," said Gillinson. "Too much music being offered. Some important people were getting the idea that one of the Big Four would have to go. We felt we were being set up for the chop. No, of course not anyone actually involved with an orchestra, but like football teams they do all have some fanatical supporters..."

On this fifth anniversary, the LSO can announce that the sponsors are solid (income has near trebled to £333,000); that the Arts Council has given them an extra £18,000, a larger share than any rival of the "merit money" it has available to top up the basic grants for London orchestras; and that all debts will be down to a manageable £90,000 by April.

At the next break in recording, Gillinson, Camden and a few other instrumentalists on the orchestra board pull up pews and pore over paper: it is not the Second Movement, but the next Great Leap Forward for the LSO. On the agenda: should the orchestra again re-schedule its year into a programme of fewer, but more thoroughly-rehearsed concerts? There is an unarguable case for ending the ludicrous situation that an orchestral musician's worst-paid work is giving concerts with his orchestra; he gets more for teaching at the Guildhall next door.

And now and then a taste more of the avant-garde in the repertoire? "Yes. But not a step, not an inch," Anthony Camden says. "That we don't feel the public on our heels." "When we are finished here

in Tooting," Clive Gillinson says, "we have a home to go to. We are no longer a band of musical gypsies. That's the point."

Gennadi Rozhdestvensky raises his baton and strikes up "the band," as the LSO mockingly calls itself. Someone in the back row of violins sneezes. Gennadi gives a mock glare; a dozen bows wordlessly point out the cul-

prit. With a beam on every face, the LSO begin again. A vaulted ceiling that has for a century echoed to the heavy pounding of the organ and heartfelt hymns now trembles to Tchaikovsky's score, and no CD will ever quite reproduce the sweep of precisely-made music that drowns the outside discord of Tooting traffic. You have to be there.

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SATURDAY

Mouthwatering ways for everyone to be a batter-day saint on Shrove Tuesday, page 41

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Following the death of Mr. David Fyfe Cable of Forfar, Scotland, who died in England after his return from Iran, and acting in trust for and on behalf of Mrs. Sylvia Cable, his widow, who has now released a portion of his superb collection to:

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A NOTE ON THE LATE DAVID FYFE CABLE. He was born in Forfar, Scotland, on the 24th of April, 1934. At a very early age through his father, who had often worked in Iran and later as a student, he developed what was at that time an unusual interest in Persian rugs which continued to grow throughout his life.

In 1958 he went to London, at that time still the centre of the world for Persian carpets, to seek his fortune and his niche in the trade of Persian carpets.

The bonded warehouses at the Port of London Authority, Cutler Street, London EC2 (formerly the East India Docks Warehouses) were the centre of the oriental carpet trade.

It was in this closed world that David Fyfe Cable started his career and in which he was determined to succeed. He commenced his collection picking rare items in the hundreds of thousands of rugs that transited through the bonded warehouses. In his passionate love of rugs and his determination to succeed, even though an outsider in this field, he made outstanding progress.

In 1965 he became a director of the Persian Carpet Trading Company Ltd, of 120 Bishopsgate, London EC2, at that time one of the largest of the 127 companies in the Port of London Authority Warehouses.

In 1968 having mastered Farsi, and accompanied by his wife, he fulfilled his lifelong ambition to live and work in Iran. With foreign capital he organized in the manner of a large European trading corporation, International Carpet Trading Company Limited of Teheran. It was during this time that his work took him deep into the remote parts of Iran where his passion for seeking out the beautiful, unique rug could be satisfied.

Whilst in Iran he commenced his book "A Scotsman and Persian Rugs", which he wrote in the manner of A. Cecil Edwards' classic work "The Persian Carpet", and which has remained unfinished.

Always of delicate health and a very heavy smoker, he was found to have cancer of the stomach and returned to England where he died.

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THE TIMES COOK

Batter-day saints

There are no hard and fast rules for perfect pancakes, says Shona Crawford Poole, just a few hints

Can all the experts be right about pancakes when their advice appears so contradictory? There certainly seem to be good grounds for confusion when one of the best regarded chefs is at variance with a highly respected teacher of cookery, and the methods of both contradict a writer whose work has proved tried, tested and true. How can the instructions of Paul Bocuse, to cook crêpes for three minutes on one side before turning them over for a further two on the other, be reconciled with Anne Willan's, to cook them until brown on the first side and flip them over for 10 seconds on the other, or with Richard Olney's still faster turnover, 10 seconds on the first side and less on the reverse. To name but three.

Add to this muddle of methods a selection of batters ranging from the punitive economical to the lavish, and it becomes plain that there should be a lesson in here somewhere. There is, and it is the simple one that the success of pancakes and crêpes depends more on individual cooking technique than on recipes. It is less a matter of right and wrong than of responding to the batter you have made and the pan in hand. If we are agreed that good pancakes are light, thin and pliable, here are a few pointers to making them so.

A purpose-built crêpe pan is a lighter-weight version of the classic omelette pan. Its straight sides slope out from the base at a shallow angle and, like a traditional iron omelette pan, it needs seasoning, should be cleaned with salt, and wiped with a film of oil before storing. That said, I have more success making pancakes in a 25cm/10in omelette pan than in the proper pan.

When making any batter, it is better to err on the side of thickness because it is easier to thin it down than to thicken it.

Pancakes can be heavy for several reasons. Batter that is too thick is one common cause. Pouring it into a pan that is not hot enough is another. Over-greasing the pan is a third.

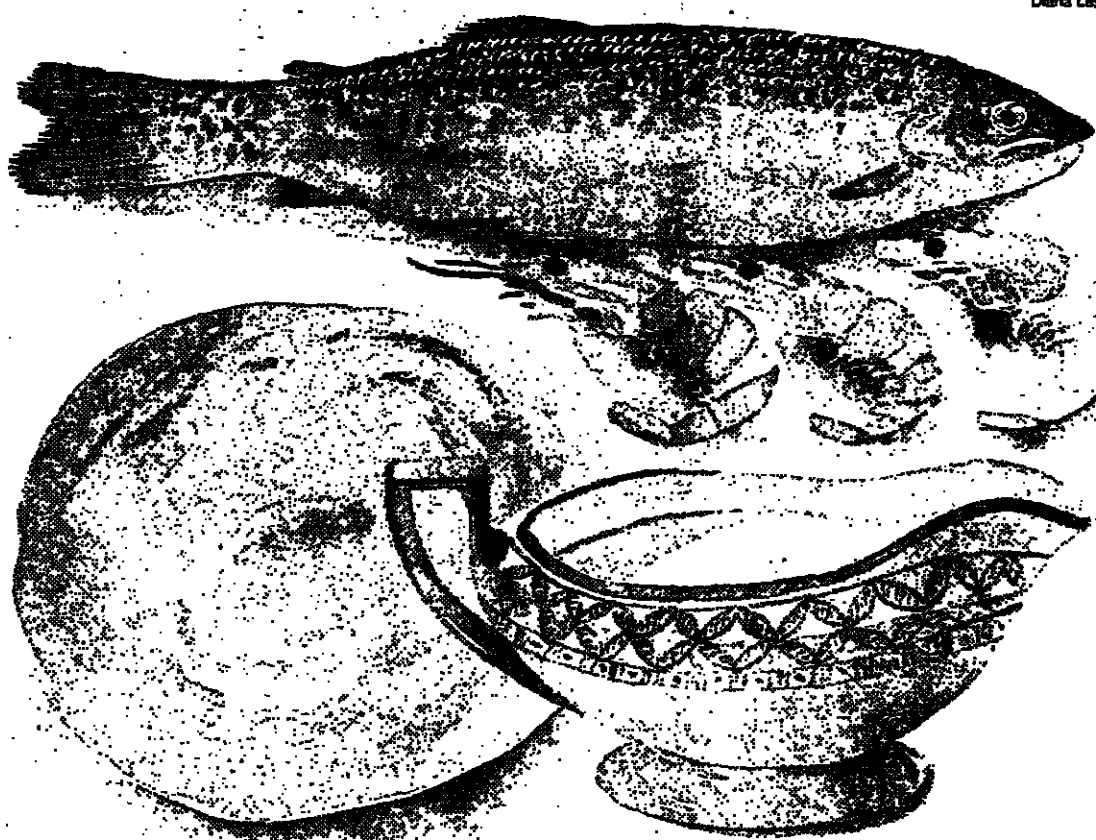
Toughness can be caused by over-beating the batter, which develops the gluten in the flour. Batters are often rested to counteract this reaction. Batter which is too thin can make fragile pancakes.

Treat the first few pancakes in any batch as test pieces for batter thickness and heat adjustment. Experiment with cooking speeds and decide for yourself whether you prefer light or more darkly coloured pancakes.

Pancake batter
Makes eight to ten
110g (4 oz) plain flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg
300ml (1/2 pint) milk
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the egg and a little of the milk. Stir to a smooth paste then gradually add the remaining milk followed by the oil. The final thickness of the batter should resemble single cream.

Allow it to stand for about 30 minutes, then stir it before making each pancake.



Pancakes are at their very best straight out of the pan. But they can be kept warm, stacked on a plate over a pan of hot water.

They also freeze successfully, but will stick together unless interleaved with greaseproof paper or foil.

Thoroughly heat your chosen pan before beginning and immediately before attempting the first pancake, wipe it with a piece of cloth or kitchen paper which has been lightly smeared with butter or oil.

Pour in a small ladleful of batter (two or three tablespoons, depending on the diameter of the pan) and tilt the pan to swirl it out to the edges. Cook until the underside of the pancake is golden brown then turn the pancake using a palette knife, or toss it, and cook the other side. The second side will never brown as evenly as the first, and will be paler with darker brown spots.

Once you have got the heat adjusted correctly it should not be necessary to change for the rest of the batch.

In Italian cooking, pancakes layered with savoury fillings are baked to make substantial main course dishes not unlike lasagne. Use a good ragu bolognese and rich bechamel sauce, or spread the pancakes with a fresh tomato sauce and sprinkle each layer of the stack with shreds of Parma ham and shavings of fresh, white mozzarella cheese. Or, as here, make a seafood stack, ringing the changes with peeled prawns, fresh crab, lobster and white fish held together with creamy sauce.

Seafood stack
Serves four
8 pancakes

15g (1/2 oz) butter
450ml (1/2 pint) bechamel sauce
2 tablespoons dry vermouth
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill (optional)
225g (8 oz) cooked crab meat, scampi, or prawns
225g (8 oz) cooked flaked fish, any firm white fish or salmon
Salt and cayenne pepper to taste
2 tablespoons double cream
1 tablespoon finely grated Parmesan cheese

Lightly butter a deep, round, spring-cake tin of approximately the same diameter as the pancakes.

Warm the sauce, if it was made in advance, and stir in the vermouth, dill, shellfish and flaked fish. Mix well without breaking up the white fish too much, and season to taste.

Spread a pancake with a couple of spoonfuls of this mixture and lay it in the bottom of the tin. Spread all but one of the remaining pancakes like-wise, dividing the fish filling evenly between them. Lay the last pancake on top of the stack, and pour the cream over it before sprinkling with Parmesan.

Bake in a pre-heated moderate, hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 20 minutes. Remove the tin and slide the seafood stack onto a warmed serving plate. Serve in wedges.

Another festive looking way of serving pancakes is to fill them with a sweet or savoury soufflé mixture. This is one of the best ways of serving more than half a dozen individual soufflés at once. In this guise the simplest soufflés are the best - classic flavours like cheese or lemon.

Cheese soufflé pancakes
Serves eight

45g (1 1/2 oz) butter
30g (1 oz) flour
300ml (1/2 pint) milk
4 large eggs, separated, plus an additional white
85g (3 oz) finely grated Cheddar cheese
30g (1 oz) finely grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon dry English mustard
Salt
Cayenne pepper
8 pancakes

Butter a heavy baking sheet and dust it with flour. Melt the butter in a heavy pan and stir in the flour. Cook the roux on a gentle heat for a minute or two without allowing it to colour.

Add the milk, a little at a time, stirring constantly to make a smooth, thick, sauce. Cook it for two minutes and remove it from the heat. Allow it to cool a little before beating in the egg yolks, one at a time, followed by the Cheddar, Parmesan, mustard, salt and cayenne.

Whisk the egg whites until they hold stiff peaks. Fold one large spoonful of the meringue into the cheese sauce to lighten it a little before folding in the remainder.

Use a large metal spoon, put about one sixth of the soufflé mixture on to one half of the pale side of each pancake, then flip the other half up over the soufflé. Arrange the filled pancakes on the prepared sheet and bake them in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 8 to 10 minutes, or until well risen. Serve at once on warmed plates.

EATING OUT

Sir, I have heard the first tourist

Not long to go. Only a few weeks and we will be seeing the first tourists of the season. They always deliver an impression of occupying a parallel London that exists only for visitors, a London of such obviousness and transparency that Londoners fail to see it.

The restaurant on their standard itinerary is Rules which is, I suppose, meant to represent some sort of immutable Englishness - lobster-faced pin-stripes gorging on roast beef, the great and good stitching up bottles of ancient claret as they confabulate. The walls are covered with framed cartoons from Gilray and Rowlandson through Spy to Vicky and Low. The decor is otherwise predominantly late Victorian - chonized wood, alabaster busts in niches, cream paint. All this might easily add up to some sort of museum, to something quite as remote from non-tourist London as the restaurant's name. But whatever it may have been in the recent past Rules is not now resting on its laurels. While no one is going to claim that the English possess one of the great kitchens of the world, the food here is at least done with care. Well, most of it. There are not that many things you can do to smoked eel to mess it up; someone here did one of them which is to freeze it. Less effort might also be made with the cabbage - boiling it for 20 minutes instead of five minutes doesn't make it four times as good.

But against this there is top-notch steak and kidney pudding - crisp suet crust; good beef, chuck or skirt, infused with the flavour of the kidneys - and a gargantuan amount. Also: brill in a cream sauce which shows that the place is not burdened by an exclusively trad repertoire of dishes. The savouries include Welsh Rarebit done with Red Leicester and bacon wrapped round oysters.

The wines are an unremarkable lot, surprisingly weak in claret, ancient or otherwise, and Burgundies - which gives one an excuse to drink a Trimbach Gewurztraminer whose titular spiciness is actually rather appropriate for powerfully bland dishes. About £45 for two.

If any European nation is as gastronomically underdeveloped as England it's Holland. No one would visit Amsterdam, any more than he would London, in order to eat. However, given that many visiting business people and weekenders from Britain will find themselves searching for a decent meal, here are the findings of my recent research there. Dorius, like Rules, represents the unambitious

Jonathan Meades suggests beating the hordes to the steak and kidney pudding

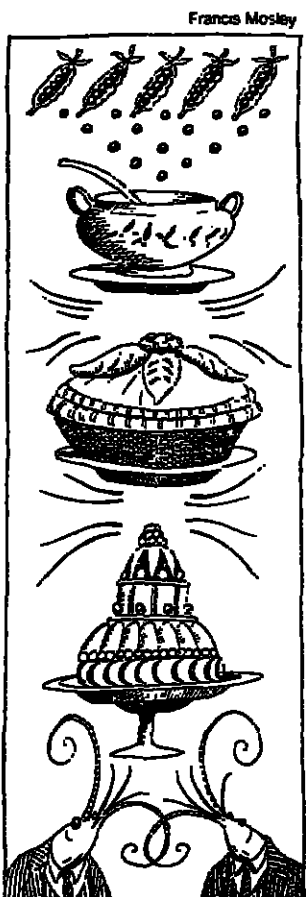
cooking of its country with great competence.

A curvy legend in green neon on one of its facades announces "Real Dutch Food", and the waiters, like all their compatriots, speak better English than many English waiters. They wear a curious uniform, inspired maybe by the costumes of milkmaids in light opera, which together with the men inside them are contemporary with the restaurant's interior. This is of the second decade of this century, all dark panelling and

Le Tout Court, five minutes and three canals away, is a French establishment run by a Dutchman, John Fagel, with a quirky window display of napkins concealing light bulbs. Mr Fagel's cooking is direct, original and inspired.

The meal began with an appetizer of cockles dressed with pistou and proceeded with a series of dishes of signal virtuosity. Two soups, one a consommé with Madeira and a julienne of beef, the other of fennel and potato. Two salmon preparations: one with butter and chive sauce; the other in a superb red wine reduction. Here wrapped in caul fat to baste it and served with berries (sweet) and a pepper sauce (sour) - this was a tremendous twist on a normal method of dealing with this meat. Cal's kidney wrapped in spinach and pastry. Dauphinoise potatoes, and potato and chive quenelles with a creamy mustard sauce. A mousse of light and dark chocolate with a light custard. Two will pay between £50 and £60 - which makes it one of Amsterdam's bargains.

Melange in Covent Garden is owned and run by a Dutch couple who have succeeded in recreating the atmosphere of strenuous informality that characterizes "young" places in Amsterdam. The place is done out in an art-schoolish way with a fair amount of canvas and an altogether marine air. It is fun and absolutely unpretentious. The decorative mannerism extends to the menu which is virtually unreadable. When deciphered it offers such dishes as deep fried Camembert (which is all right if you like such things), gruyere and spinach in pastry with a tomato and cream sauce that recalls Campbell's soup, duck with berries and honey (slightly overdone meat, pleasant sauce), speck with cheese and pears, passion fruit sorbet (delicious), raspberry mousse with raspberry sauce (less delicious). The wines are inexpensive and there are a number of unusual beers including the Belgian Duvel, which makes most home-grown lagers look pretty silly. About £35.



marbled glass light fittings. The place is comfortable, gently distressed, capacious.

Pea soup is claimed as a "national dish". The version here is much superior to that at Rules: it uses a ham stock which is not too salty and in the broth are pieces of smoked ham, belly pork and cured sausage. Sauerkraut is accompanied by calf's cheek, smoked and fresh pork, and three sorts of sausage. Braised beef comes with a bowl of stewed dried prunes, apricots and peaches and some nasty red cabbage. The fruit is a neat foil to the very rich meat. Two will pay about £30 if they stick to beer.

Rules, 35 Maiden Lane, WC2 (01-836 5314/2558), 12-15.30 and 6-11.15 Mon to Sat, closed Sun.
Dorius, Voorburgwal, 336 Amsterdam, Holland (010 31 20 235245), 12-3 and 6-9.30 Mon to Sat, closed Sun.
Restaurant Tout Court, Runstraat 17A, Amsterdam, Holland (258637), 6-11.30 every day.
Melange, 59 Endel Street, WC2 (01-240 8077), noon-2.30 and 6-11.30 Tues to Sat (except Sat lunchtime).

DRINK

A toast to the prodigal sons of Burgundy

"Pomperol, the Rhône and Italy all had to be discovered and so did Burgundy," says Simon Taylor-Gill of Domaine Direct, the country's leading Burgundy specialists, discussing his favourite subject. It seems extraordinary that authentic Burgundy in all its myriad forms - but mostly pale in colour, delicate in style and reeking of the Pinot Noir or Chardonnay grape - was not revealed to this generation of Burgundy lovers until Domaine Direct came along. Other merchants, most notably Graham Chidgey from Laytons and Joseph Beckmann from Berkman Wine Cellars, had certainly all done their bit to keep the many flavours of genuine fine Burgundy alive on their customers' taste buds. But apart from the odd fustian wine merchant who was determined to seek out and ship the real McCoy, a great deal of



shop-bought Burgundy in the UK was no more than anonymous, soupy, jammy stuff bequeathed with a hefty slug of Algerian or Rhône red.

So uninterested had the average British wine buyer become in the confusing jungle of growers, merchants, styles and labels that is Burgundy, that by 1981 Britain, traditionally the second largest Bur-

gundy importer, was down to taking an all-time low of just 5 per cent of the total crop. (Today we import twice that.) It was clear to Simon Taylor-Gill and Hilary Gibbs, the founding partners of Domaine Direct, that a gap existed in the fine wine market. Five years on Domaine Direct's list boasts some 200 wines from 50 growers and 100 different appellations (their first list offered just 20 wines from six estates, or domaines). They have been ruthless en route in adhering to their original principles of shipping fine estate-bottled Burgundy direct from grower to customer, and have continued to ignore the easy wine-buying path of stocking négociant, or merchants', wines. To that end and somewhat unbelievably, Domaine Direct claim to taste every wine on their list four times before it is bottled and to spend one week in the vineyards each month of the year.

Perhaps the quickest way of boning up on fine domaine-bottled Burgundy is to send off for Domaine Direct's scholarly, informative and detailed "Twelve Domaines in Burgundy" brochure. Together with their list it will launch you on your own

Burgundian voyage of discovery, spiced with intriguing snippets of information.

To celebrate their anniversary Domaine Direct held two impressive tastings with some 70 wines in total. For me the star of the younger wines was Dominique and Bruno Lafon's stunning '83 Volnay 1er cru Santenots priced at £15.61.

This sensational rich, perfumed, complex wine was packed with layers of ripe blackberry and cassis-like fruit. Almost as impressive

was Patrick Bize's '83 Savigny-les-Beaune 1er cru Les Verges from the Domaine Simon Bize & Fils (£10.29). This garnet red wine, made by another young, dedicated Burgundian, is more mature than most '83s and is blessed with a delicious plummy, smoky, almost beefy flavour.

Another good red winter Burgundy is the excellent '84 Mercurey Clos des Barreaux (available next month priced at £9.14) from Michel Juillot,

whose garnet edge again indicates that this wine will mature sooner than later.

Of the white wines available I also appreciated the white '85 Mercurey (£8.63) again from Michel Juillot with its pale gold colour and delightful well-made nutty-smoky palate.

Jane MacQuitty

Domaine Direct are at 29 Wilmington Square, London WC1 (01-837 3521/1142).

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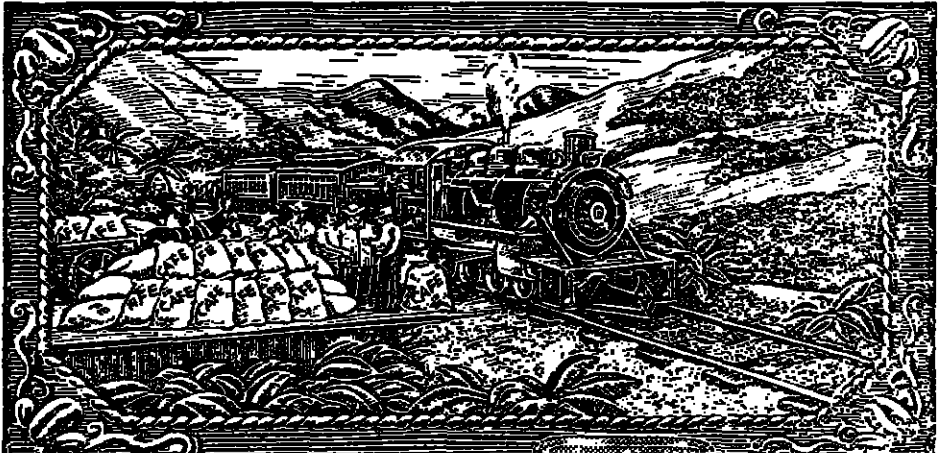
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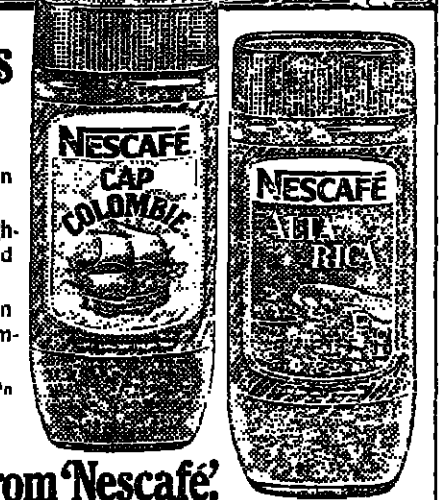
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THE ARTS

Agony and ecstasy

It was almost impossible for last night's television viewers to avoid watching a programme about AIDS, as the box began its campaign of saturation bombing to stop us dying of ignorance.

However, it was equally impossible for last night's television viewers, with their eyes on the screen as they were either finished at the last moment or poignantly live.

Furthermore, by pure, if happy, coincidence Channel 4 was so bold as to begin to put out, without the prophylactic of pre-recording, the appropriately titled *The Last Resort* with Jonathan Ross, thus placing quite beyond even my prescient bile the cocky charms of the callow chat-show host. Ross is a curious

TELEVISION

mixture of style-generation cool and straining-for-laugh mania, as though the stripped-to-his-pants kid from the laundrette Levis ad had metamorphosed into Danny Kaye.

Thus, with a clear conscience, I sought out some gentle escapism — and *Gardeners' World* in Italy (BBC2) promised just that. The English park aesthetic of regimented gaudiness was temporarily abandoned for the glorious ornate delights of the island palace of the Isola Bella in Lake Maggiore and the less frivolous splendours of its neighbouring Isola Madre. To make us feel at home, however, our guide was Roy Lancaster, a lively member of the Eddie Waring school of TV garden sage — all barking, chuckling enthusiasm, massaging rather than mincing words.

Dressed like a miniature Ron Pickering — short-sleeved casual shirt, woolly in waiting on the shoulders — he mulched his raw mutations of endless Latin names while the pampered flora, unaccustomed to such rough northern wind, turned the other leaf and pretended they were not getting a good talking-to.

Arena's *A Brother With Perfect Timing* (BBC2) gave us escapism of another kind, that of the exile from political oppression. This gentle, morning portrait of the South African-born jazz musician Abdullah Ibrahim (formerly Dollar Brand) cut between New York, where Ibrahim sits at a piano spoke with quiet articulate emotion about his music and his homeland, and Cape Town, where scenes were acted out to illustrate his words and hypnotic compositions.

Andrew Hislop

THEATRE

Lady Day
Donmar Warehouse

Dee Dee Bridgewater, who impersonates Billie Holiday in Stephen Stahl's new musical about the great blues singer, is a performer of enormous zest and magnetism. From the moment she bursts on to the bare Donmar stage (the setting of the first act is a rehearsal, to which Billie arrives late) she radiates enough warmth and life to fill a much larger auditorium.

Enough vocal power also, for when she starts singing (there are 17 numbers in all) she reveals that she possesses a voice of greater range than Holiday's own. She is also a confident — perhaps at times over-confident — actress, bold in gesture and inflection.

What a shame then, that she has not found here a vehicle worthy of her talent. For *Lady Day* does not make sense as a play: there is no imaginative coherence in its combination of dramatized performance and rehearsal of Holiday songs, and flashbacks dealing with the salient features of the singer's life.

Horrid laughter

Gamblers
Traverse
Edinburgh

"Daring, clan and spirit", are the qualities of the hussar, according to the gamblers as they inveigle a would-be hussar into their clutches in Gogol's black — in every sense comedy, now receiving its first British production. They turn out, too, to be the qualities of a production directed with considerable style by Hamish Glen.

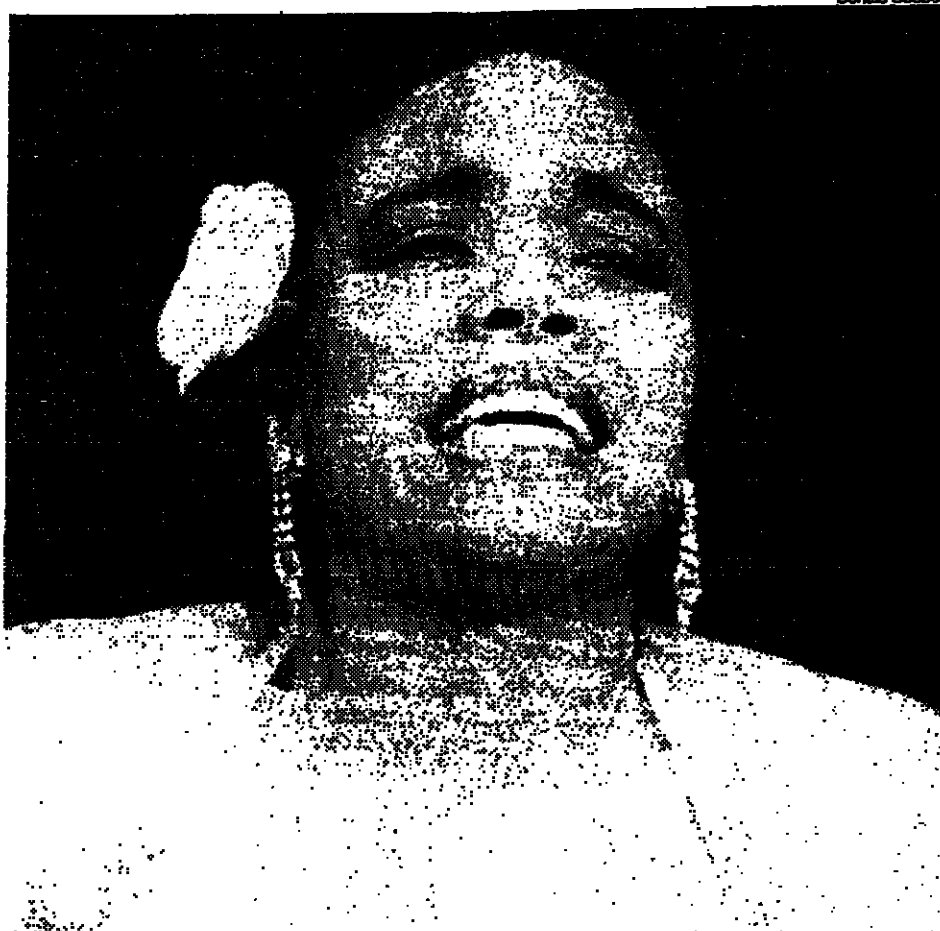
In this lively, very Scottish translation by Chris Hannan and Christopher Rathbone, the gamblers arrive in the dingy back room of an inn lit only by gaslight. (The impression given so successfully of the room being lit only by the dozen gaslamps which serve as footlights is typical of the polish of the show). First comes the florid archdeacon (Craig Ferguson), setting out to dupe anyone in range with his marked cards and nimble fingers. Then three even harder cases (Jimmy Chisholm, Kay Gallie and John Stahl) arrive. By dint of a stung so elaborate that it involves the hussar (Forbes Masson) and a local council official (a gleefully odious cameo from Andrew Dallmeyer) they unmercifully set about cleaning out the archdeacon.

The trouble with the latter is that they are simply not dramatic: they come across as banal statements of the expected (childhood rape, family grief, addiction to drugs) rather than living scenes from a life. There is no tension and no development, so the effects seem bald and ultimately gratuitous.

The trouble with the songs, despite some rousing renditions and polished backing from the Lady Day quartet, is that the distancing effect of impersonation prevents one from participating fully in the performance in the way that a jazz audience should. We admire Bridgewater for her professionalism but we are not directly moved because, after all, she isn't Billie Holiday.

She is an extrovert who communicates health and strength — as well as a potent sexuality — rather than the deep inner sadness of Holiday. Her voice has a brassy punch and vigour quite alien to Holiday's pure, haunting plangency. It's like the difference between a saxophone and a violin. Bridgewater is a splendid spirited jazz singer, but she cannot communicate the tragic tenderness which cost Holiday everything.

Harry Eyres



Bold and brassy: but Dee Dee Bridgewater fails to capture the plangency of Billie Holiday

The Dead
Old Red Lion

Somewhere in the depths of the Egyptian underworld a long-sealed door breaks open and in bursts the volcanic figure of Tony Bluto, who takes one spaced-out look at the sand floor and mistakes it for a Californian beach.

However, there is other posthumous company on hand to help him get his bearings. These include Tall, his former earthly partner, a mummified mistress of Ramses III and a London-Greek ice-cream vendor struck down on the Mile End Road. If one sign of creative vigour is the ability to make hitherto undreamt-of connections, then Anne Caulfield shows it superbly in a plot combining the mind-bending fantasy of Heathcote Williams with the physical shocks of *Ghostbusters*.

No doubt that comparison also occurred to her, as Bluto (alias J.B.) and Tall bear a marked resemblance to John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd.

Dead turns on reincarnation and the theory of the division of souls. The first theory stops even the manic J.B. in his tracks: it is, he says, as if Tutenkhamen is simultaneously lying in state and running General Motors. The second leaves him cold, as being dead makes him happy for the first time in his life.

The play goes on to confirm this, reversing the horror of

death into the fear of rebirth. It begins in sheer panic with the arrival of the mummy, leaping like a sprightly monkey from the sarcophagus.

By degrees, however, this faceless heap of rags (Mark Hopkins) takes on the appeal of E.T. and when they address it as "ragwort" and "cockroach" these become terms of endearment for the murdered girl who enjoyed 3,000 years of entombed love with her pharaoh before he took the reincarnation option. No prizes for guessing the former identity of the ice-cream vendor.

For most of the way Anna Furze's production speeds along on a wave of high-pressure Hollywood-Egyptian pastiche and rave-ups. Social conscience, alas, strikes in the last scene. Otherwise this Heaven and the Victorians show is recommended.

Irving Wardle

It's a Girl
Duke's Playhouse,
Lancaster

The story goes that at the opening of the last show devised by John Burrows, *One Big Blow*, with its cast of six men, someone in the audience sported a badge reading "This play fails to exploit women".

Burrows's response has been to write this exhilarating show for five women, covering, in a little over two hours,

pregnancy, from the first uneasy signs through all the antenatal brouhaha to a named birth.

The tone is ironic. Perched on the low steps at the corners of the open stage, his contrasted five — refined Calla, ecologist Mina, determined Linda, thirsty Mary and coarse Eve — smile sweetly while singing of the symptoms they can expect while expecting. What may seem a daft idea for a musical becomes in this company a witty, intelligent and warm occasion.

There are no musical instruments. Andy Whitfield's music for the dozen songs is written in five-part harmony, and the *cappella* singing makes the most significant contribution to the show's projected sense of female solidarity.

Emerging out of the main theme comes another, in which the women oppose a plan to build a dump for nuclear waste outside their village. The subject is allowed to dominate the second half; the merging of present magistrates' courtroom and past schoolroom is ingenious, but elsewhere the male caricatures subside into stereotypes never the case when the company is playing women.

Shortage of space prevents me from doing more than commend the talents of Nicola Sloane, Julie Barty, Jane Nash, Stephanie Sales and Liza Spenz.

Jeremy Kingston

Natural selection

CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham Town
Hall/Radio 3

No doubt there are regions of the United States where performances of Haydn's *Creation* have to be answered by an oratorio of decent Darwinian credentials, assuming that the criterion of balance cuts both ways. But perhaps one might say that Haydn's score itself contains the lesson, by demonstrating what a powerful evolution can be undergone by a simple motif starting out from a rising fourth, until natural selection leads to the theme of the final chorus, which is as solid and splendid as *raaii* in this universe.

But before worrying about our ability to believe in *The Creation* we have to worry about Haydn's, on which our own depends. The oratorio is perhaps the first outstanding musical example of neo-classicism, for here Haydn was consciously working with a form and with kinds of musical expression (most particularly the points where weather conditions and animals are depicted) that he knew he was imitating from a master dead for half a century: Handel.

It is an ironic work, but of a peculiarly delicate sort. If the irony is too much brought out, then the piece can become merely an affectionate "leg-pull" on the other hand, it is underplayed, then one easily ends up with pomposity.

Simon Rattle got it just

right, largely by encouraging much fresh-toned and unaffected playing from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, by achieving a similar simplicity and straightforwardness of phrasing, and by making sure that dynamic contrasts were vigorously marked both by the orchestra and by the CBSO Chorus.

The result was a completely unpretentious performance, so much so that the opening "Representation of Chaos" seemed at first too blithe, until one realized that this is 18th-century chaos, and that the common plumbing of these harmonies for their late 19th-century resonances is stylistically misguided.

Such judgements in this performance perhaps owed something to a study of current notions of authenticity, though Rattle was rightly not afraid of the odd *portamento*, or of rudely modern bassoon sounds. Indeed, the performance could not have been so natural if it had been chasing assumptions about period style.

Its naturalness was further helped by the contributions of the soloists. Margaret Marshall moved forward from a rather bland start to become enthusiastic in her radiance and Philip Langridge, though stretched at the top, produced a vital expressivity. But it was David Thomas who gave the performance its keynote of immediacy and quiet accomplishment, who offered both grandeur and extreme softness, and who sank to a marvellous low D of identification with the worm.

Paul Griffiths

An escape into
silly love songs

Ardent: Eiddwen Harry and Martin McEvoy in *The Count*

OPERA

The Count of
Luxembourg
Sadler's Wells

The waltzes may be on the banal side and the story, about a marriage of convenience that develops into something rather more than that, is excruciatingly silly. But it does one good to forget the usual need to think too deeply and to go and see a nice, sentimental operetta like Lehár's *The Count of Luxembourg*.

In any case, the orchestration has a wonderful sparkle to it, and this revival of Nigel Douglas's production for New Sadler's Wells Opera still works reliably well.

In part, that is because it does not try to do anything too clever. Unlike opera, operetta tends to live more comfortably within the bounds of its own time, and Peter Rice's designs, together with Michele Hardy's aptly schmaltzy choreography, make sure that this one does. The sets — a bare attic, a garden hung with trellises and nuptial white, an opulent hotel foyer — do not *trompe l'oeil* too convincingly.

We are not to consider ourselves in anything other than a world of pure escapism: fantasy, the flats really look flat. Only one or two contemporary references in Douglas's new English version of the book — to insider dealings

and, neatly, to one of the sponsors — bring us to the present day.

The style of the singing and acting duly falls into this pleasingly conventional mould. The biggest laughs are reserved, of course, for the Grand Duke Basil (Julian Moyle), whose ardency reminds one of a child eager to get at his Christmas presents, and for Joan Davies's Countess Stasa, who appears belatedly to claim that Duke and who gives a winning performance that combines a veritable Marlene Dietrich of a voice with the demeanour of an assault tank.

Helen Kucharek's Juliette, meanwhile, manages to be coy and coquettish at the same time, while her voice is appealingly sparkling.

Armand, her lover and eventual husband, is an awkward role with which to create something memorable. Martin McEvoy establishes his presence but scarcely more. There can be no complaints, however, about the leading parts. Eiddwen Harry, as Angèle Didier, maintains an imperious demeanour, as all prima donnas ought, yet she is still an innocent in the face of true love, while John Brecknock's René (the Count himself), garnishes his good looks and a loveable rakishness with a voice that copes well with the demands that Lehár places upon it.

Barry Wordsworth's conducting, meanwhile, could have elicited tidier results.

Stephen Pettitt

Have opera, will travel

Tonight, the Welsh National Opera will tackle Berlioz's mammoth two-part epic, *The Trojans*. Director Tim Albery tells Hilary Finch how his lack of preconceptions about the work enabled him to overcome the problems of staging "a story about a man and woman in love — it's as simple as that".



A confident Tim Albery: "Berlioz's sense of construction is brave and brilliant"

When the Welsh National Opera takes on *The Trojans* tonight, its challenge will not only be the one faced 18 years ago by Scottish Opera and Covent Garden — how to stage Berlioz's cumbersome two-part epic in complete and completely convincing form. It has also taken on a *Trojans* which must travel and a young director who, when he began work on the first instalment last year, had the experience of only three operas behind him.

Tim Albery's brief was to pack the entire epic into a suitcase. *The Trojans*, in the complete form in which Berlioz first conceived it, will travel from Cardiff to Liverpool, Birmingham, Oxford, Southampton and Bristol before reaching Scottish Opera for its 1988-89 season. With a degree of hubris not inappropriate for the job, Albery put himself forward for the work, attracted by his own total lack of preconceptions. "Unlike *Don Giovanni*, which I have just done for Opera North, there were no footprints for me to tread in. Neither was *Trojans* simply some obscure piece dragged out of someone's back cupboard. That was the first and most exciting challenge."

Given that Albery will be faced with musical introductions that can be as much as 30 bars long, and frequently no more than 15 feet of stage to play with, the challenge has been a formidable one. His approach so far has been both musical and pragmatic. He has chosen

to take his cue from the human dimensions of the epic as a whole, and to bend his ear to the small-scale aspects of Berlioz's score.

In Part One, enthusiastically received at Opera North last September, he did it by concentrating, even in the midst of battle and mass suicide, on the dilemma of the lovers, Cassandra and Chorus. He emphasized the individual humanity of the crowd and explored the problematical static elements of chorus and ensemble by creating close-focused, sculptural set-pieces. It worked with the company; and it worked with the critics.

In Part Two, *The Trojans at Carthage*, to be unveiled tonight after the interval, the focus becomes closer still. Albery sees it primarily as "A story about a man and a woman in love; about the conflict between ambition and building a home; between making a country and making love. Aeneas chose one and Dido the other. It's as simple as that."

Or is it? With the sheer driving power of Part One's conflict and violence gone, and with Berlioz's music opening out to the balm and restraint of its own very real problems.

Maintaining a sense of unity between the two parts has not unduly worried Albery. He acknowledges and enjoys the difference between the musical and dramatic worlds of Troy and Carthage, and is happy to leave the music of the

last act to bring the memory full-circle back to the first. Neither do the difficulties of staging Act III's notorious "national anthem" sequence and string of dances at Dido's court bother him overmuch.

What concerns him is how to keep the audience's concentration focused on Dido's inner feelings, even in the midst of celebration, and how to sustain the mounting emotional and erotic tension in her relationship with Aeneas.

In the fourth act, which moves from the initial consummation of love in the "Royal Hunt and Storm", through Dido's feelings of guilt and on to the great love duet, Albery will be looking once more to Berlioz as his first and best stage director.

"His sense of construction is brave and brilliant. This is the point at which time stands still. The music almost stops. And that, after all, is what love affairs are like: the outside world, work, other people are all forgotten. You live for the moment and Berlioz has the strength of mind not to compromise that."

The human approach would seem to have Berlioz's blessing. He wrote of *The Trojans*: "I know that so well that I feel they must have known me." Albery reckons he will have achieved what he set out to do if a generation of opera-goers new to Berlioz and his *Trojans* feel that they, too, have experienced something of their tragedy, and have a good night out into the bargain.

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BEST ACTOR — William Hurt
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS — Marlee Matlin

WILLIAM HURT MARLEE MATLIN

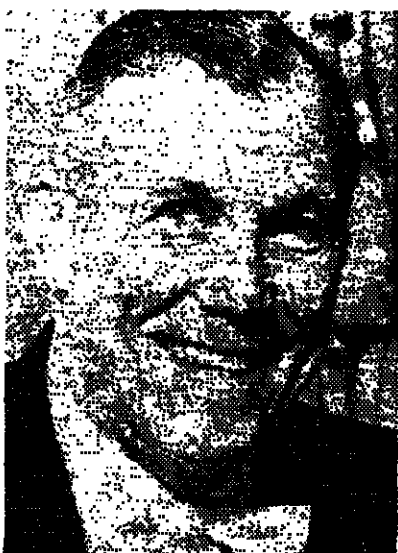
Children of a Lesser God

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CANNON
RUMBA

THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS

FRENCH DRESSING: Georges Pretre, the seasoned French conductor who is noted for his recordings with Maria Callas, conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in a largely French programme. Debussy's sometimes astigmatic, always invigorating *La Mer* and Ravel's brilliantly resourced orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* should suit Pretre's dynamic personality and sense of dramatic effect. Barbican Centre EC2 (01-628 8795), Thursday 7.45pm.



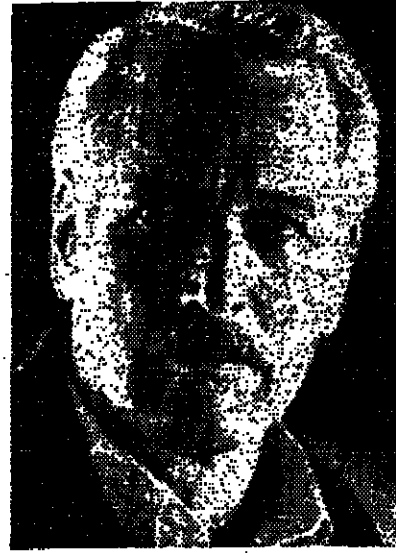
JAZZ

BLUE SAXOPHONE: David Sanborn looks a pale slip of a thing, but his alto saxophone is noted for its red-blooded blues cry, much in demand over the last decade with pop stars and jazz arrangers looking for an injection of the authentic soulfulness that the late King Curtis used to supply. Paul Simon, Bryan Ferry and Gil Evans have used it to their advantage; now it's his turn in the jazz-funk field, leading a band of young virtuosi. Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081), tonight.



OPERA

GOOD EVANS: Anne Evans, the Welsh soprano, has spent most of the past four years with Wagner. First there was the *Hell Ring* in Bayreuth in 1983, then her Brünnhilde for the Welsh National Opera's own *Ring* a year later. Her other Wagner heroines were Elsa in *Lohengrin* and Eva in *Meistersinger*. Now she switches to Berlioz and Cassandra in the WNO's new production of *Les Troyens*, directed by Tim Albery. New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 394844), tonight, March 7 and 14; then on tour.



FILMS

POOL ROOMER: Paul Newman returns to the pool table in Martin Scorsese's *The Color of Money* (15). It is a sequel, if a belated one, to the classic 1961 film by Robert Rossen. *The Hustler*. Pool may not be as physically gruelling as the boxing of *Raging Bull* but Scorsese works hard whipping up excitement as Newman's character — "Fast" Eddie Felson — tries to get back in the game, spurred by jealousy of a young protégé (played by Tom Cruise). Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252), from Friday.



BOOKS

PRAGMATIC PREMIER: Stanley Baldwin (as seen by Low) was Prime Minister three times in the inter-war period. He was a deceptively skilful politician who successfully guided the nation through crises like the General Strike and the Abdication. His record in foreign affairs was less successful and he has been accused of complacency in the face of the Fascist dictators. He has prompted several biographies: the latest, *Baldwin*, comes from the perceptive pen of Roy Jenkins and is published on Monday (Collins, £12.95).



THEATRE

MAKING SHAW: Peter O'Toole is fast working his way through the Shavian repertoire. After *Man and Superman* and *The Apple Cart* he returns to the role of Professor Higgins in *Pygmalion*. Val May's production has a three-week run in Guildford before transferring to New York, where O'Toole will be making his Broadway debut. With Amanda Plummer (daughter of Christopher Plummer) as Eliza, John Mills as Cockfield, Lionel Jeffries and Dora Bryan. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre (0483 60191), from Wednesday.

FILMS

OPENINGS

SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (18): Cheeky, rough and ready American independent film about the sexual adventures of a black girl in Brooklyn. Written and directed by Spike Lee, with Tracy Camilla Johns, Redmond Hicks. Screen on the Green (01-226 3520), Metro (01-437 0757), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220), from Fri.

DUET FOR ONE (15): Julie Andrews tackles both the violin and emotional traumas in Tom Kempinski's adaptation of his famous play about a musician struck down by multiple sclerosis. Andrew Konchalsky directs, with Alan Bates as her husband, and Max von Sydow as her analyst. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636), from Fri.

THE HUSTLER: Robert Rossen's classic film, revived to coincide with *The Color of Money*. With Paul Newman as the pool room conman determined to challenge Minnesota Fats (Jackie Gleason) from the novel by Walter Tevis. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), from Fri.

WHOOOPS APOCALYPSE (15): Determinedly outrageous and undisciplined comedy lampooning international politics. Based on the TV series, with Peter Cook as Britain's PM and Loretta Swit as the American President. Directed by commercials veteran Tom Bussman. Cannon Tanton Street (01-930 0631), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), from Fri. Also on national release.

SELECTED

CACTUS (PG): Bizarre and powerful romance from Australia's most adventurous film-maker, Paul Cox, with Isabelle Huppert as the French visitor half-blinded in a car accident. Renoir (01-837 8402).

COMING UP ROSES (PG): Modest, atmospheric Welsh-language comedy about the closure of a small town's last remaining cinema: directed by Stephen Bayly. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Three more chances to see Margaret Price as *Norma* tonight, Thurs and Mar 10 at 7.30pm. The production is less than imaginative, but Sir John Pritchard keeps things on the rails in the pit. On Mon and Wed at 7pm the last two nights of *Die Zauberflöte*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: A week of lively theatre: this afternoon (3pm) and tonight (7.30pm) Jonathan Miller's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, 1920s-style *Mitridate*, Tues and Fri (7.30pm) Ian Judge's showbiz-style *Faust*, splendidly sung by Arthur Davies, Helen Field and Ulrik Cold; and on Wed and Mar 7 (7.30pm) the return of Philip Glass's mesmerising minimalist ritual, *Akhnaten*, with Christopher Robson as the Pharaoh and Sally Burgess as Nefertiti. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: *Ballo in Maschera* on Thurs (7.15pm) and *Barber of Seville* on Fri (7.15pm). New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 394844).

SCOTTISH OPERA: David Pountney's harrowing production of Janacek's *Deceit*, *From the House of the Dead*, has just arrived north of the border: performances tonight, Mon and Thurs at 7.15pm, conducted by Richard Armstrong. *Figaro* takes over on Tues and for a 2.15pm matinee on Mar 7. A single performance of John Cox's thoughtful new production of *Der fliegende Holländer* on Wed (7.15pm). Hope St, Glasgow (041-331 1234).

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Entertaining presentation of Martin's *Julietta* or *The Key of Dreams*. Performances on Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fri at 7pm. Guildhall School, Silk St, Barbican, London EC1 (01-628 2571).

FILMS ON TV

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (1982): Ingmar Bergman's farewell to the cinema, a warm, often painful and beautifully crafted study of two children growing up in a Swedish family in the early years of the century. BBC2, today, 9.30-11.05pm.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS: This afternoon (2.30pm) and this evening (7.30pm) Lehar's *The Count of Luxembourg* in Tom Hawkes's stylish production, re-staged by Nigel Douglas. Also on Wed and Fri at 7.30pm. Gilbert & Sullivan's melodrama, *Fuddlers*, takes to the stage in Ian Judge's new production on Tues and Thurs at 7.30pm. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

THE ARKLEY BARNET SHOW: Dr Evadne Hinge and Dame Hilda Brackett in their first West End season since 1980; featuring a mysterious Mr Barnett. Four weeks only. Comedy (01-930 2578). Opens Tues.

THEATRE

OPENINGS

ANATOL: World premiere of Michael Robinson's translation of Schnitzler's study of society in the decaying Austro-Hungarian Empire. Robinson directs Jan Berish, Malcolm Sinclair, Simon Shepherd. Gate Theatre Club (01-229 0706). Opens Mon.

BEACHED: Celia Bannerman directs a first play by Kevin Hood, about two young people on the run. Leonie Mellinger and Ian Targett. Warehouse, Dingwall Road, Croydon (01-690 4060). Preview Thurs; opens Fri.

NO WORRIES: David Holman's award-winning Australian play for young people makes its British debut directed by Jeremy Bell. A girl from an outback sheep farm is forced to move to the city. Mainly morning and afternoon performances. Young Vic (01-928 6363). Opens Tues.

SELECTED

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE: Michael Gambon magnificent in a first-rate production of Arthur Miller's drama of jealousy and betrayal. National (01-928 2252).

SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT (1955): Bergman again, with his early comedy of manners charting the tribulations among ill-assorted couples during a country house weekend. BBC2, today, 11.05pm-1am.

THE ELEPHANT MAN (1980): John Hurt's remarkable performance as the 19th century fairground freak. BBC1, Fri, 10.25pm-12.25am.

THE STRANGER (1946): Orson Welles directing himself as a Nazi hiding out in Connecticut. Not major Welles but lifted by his baroque touches and building to a famous climax on the clock tower. Channel 4, Fri 11.20pm-1.10am.

CONCERT

MALCOLM'S 70TH: Dame Janet Baker, Julian Bream and William Bennett join in a further tribute to George Malcolm's seventieth birthday. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

MAHLER'S RESURRECTION: Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducts the London Philharmonic Choir, Orchestra and soloists in Mahler's Symphony No 2 "Resurrection". Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), credit cards 01-928 8800. Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

HERBIE/LSD: The LSD is conducted by Gunther Herbig in Bruckner's Symphony No 8, and in Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos K 365 the soloists are Katta and Marielle Labèque. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795), credit cards 01-628 8891. Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

VILLA-LOBOS'S 100TH: Julian Bream celebrates the centenary of the birth of Villa-Lobos by playing his complete guitar music. Wigmore Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

FROM DRESDEN: Mozart's *Sinfonia No 40* and Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* are performed by the Dresden Staatskapelle under Hans Vork.

THEATRE

OPENINGS

HEAVEN ON EARTH: BBC Wales production about British orphan children making a new life in Canada before the First World War. Horribly dramatic in pretty locations. BBC2, tomorrow, 10.05-11.45pm.

HEDDA GABLER: Stan Thomas plays Ibsen's trapped heroine in a stylish, strongly cast production. Haymarket Theatre, Leicester (0533 539797).

DECADENCE: Steven Berkoff's chainsaw attack on the upper classes. With Linda Marlowe. Ferocious. Wyndham's (01-836 3028).

KISS ME KATE: Paul Jones as Petruchio and Nichola McAuliffe as Kate in the RSC's first American musical. Stratford (0789 295823).

BRISTOL: The Doctor's Dilemma: Leon Rubin directs a rare production of George Bernard Shaw's wickedly funny satire on the medical profession. Theatre Royal, Old Vic (0272 24388). Until Mar 28. (Previews Feb 26, 28; first night Feb 27).

GLASGOW: Play: TAG Theatre Company in the Pam Gems play about the great French singer. Citizens (041 429 0022). Opens Tues.

SHEFFIELD: It's a Bit Lively Outside: World premiere of a commissioned play by Joyce Holliday, the story of the Sheffield blitz, using songs and stories of survivors. Directed by Clare Venables and Mike Kay. Crucible (0742 769922). Preview Thurs eve and Fri matinee. Opens Fri eve.

WATFORD: Spin of the Wheel: World premiere of a musical based on a television game show; written by Geoff Morrow and Timothy Praeger. Palace (0923 25671). Previews from Thurs. Press night Mar 11.

OUT OF TOWN

Robbie Coltrane, jumbo-sized alternative comic turned straight actor, joins a band of ageing rock 'n' rollers celebrating 25 years on the road in Tatti Fratt. John Byrne's wryly humorous six-partter follows the squabbling has-beens on a tour of Scotland's seedier dates, and Emma Thompson gives a sparky performance as the old flame who comes back into Coltrane's life. BBC1, Tuesday, 9.30-10.30pm.

A CASE THAT WON'T GO AWAY: First Tuesday with a new report suggesting a miscarriage of justice over IRA bombings in Guildford and Woolwich; with Cardinal Basil Hume, Lord Devlin and a new all-star witness. (TV), Tues, 10.40-11.40pm.

FOREIGN BODIES: Boy-meets-girl comedy by Graham Reid and Bernard Farrell set across the north-south religious divide in Ireland. He is a Belfast Protestant, she is a Catholic nurse from Dublin. BBC1, Thurs, 9.9-9.30pm.

THE CARAVAGGIO CONSPIRACY: Deserved repeat for Arena's real-life

TELEVISION

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ROCK

JOHNNY COPELAND: The Texan blues singer/guitarist comes from the Albert Collins school of icy picking (most celebrated graduate, Robert Cray). The Cray/Collins/Copeland album *Showdown* (1985) showed him to be a performer well able to hold his own in such august company. Tonight, Dingwalls, London NW1 (01-267 4967); Wed, Sands Centre, Cardiff (0222 25222); Fri, Royal Court, Liverpool (051 708 4321).

BEN E. KING: "Stand by Me" is holding fast at number one but will King be up to this kind of prestige show after so long out of the limelight? Mon, London Palladium, W1 (01-437 7373).

STAN TRACEY ORCHESTRA: A rare and precious event — Tracey's 15-piece band plays his new suite, *Genesis*. Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

OLIVER JONES: Canadian pianist, influenced — like his great compatriot, Oscar Peterson — by Art Tatum. Tonight, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 6722); tomorrow, Dartington Hall (0803 863073).

ELEANOR BROS (above) plays George Sand and Robert Poulton in *Water in the Woods*, the story of the lovers' miserable sojourns therein. Sand was shunned by the islanders and Chopin was suffering from TB but he still managed to produce the 24 Preludes. The narrator is Peter Barkworth. Radio 4, Tues, 8.30-9.15pm.

THE PRINCE OF AFRICA: New play by West Indian writer Caryl Phillips dealing with an English sea-captain's first voyage on a slave ship bound for America. Tensions rise as the humane captain tries to come to terms with his brutal first mate. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-8.30pm.

DANCE

JANET SMITH AND DANCERS: London premiere of *Foot's Day* by Robert North and two works by Smith, *Out into the Night* and *Still No Word From Antioch*. Shaw Theatre, Euston Rd, WC1 (01-388 1394) from Tues until March 7.

ROYAL BALLET: This week's only performance at Covent Garden is *La Fille Mal Gardée* (Tues) with Karen Paisley and Bruce Sansom due to dance the lovers. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Ninette de Valois's *Checkmate* is the centrepiece of a mixed bill given today in Manchester and next Fri plus March 7 in Leeds.

Palace Theatre, Oxford Street, Manchester (061 236 9922) and Grand Theatre, New Brigste, Leeds (0532 469351).

PHOTOGRAPHY

TWENTY FOR TODAY: 20 of today's top young portrait photographers trawled from a number of contemporary sources such as *The Face* and *Blitz* magazines, by the National Portrait Gallery.

Sally Gallery, 105 High St, Edinburgh, from today until April 4 (031 557 1140).

LINDA MCCARTNEY: Self-taught photographer Linda McCartney has plenty of conviction and her most recent work on the threatened landscape of Sussex demonstrates a certain tenacity of purpose even though dripping with romanticism.

Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Wilson St, Bath, from today until April 28 (0225 82841).

GALLERIES

IVORY TOWERS: Le Corbusier, born in Switzerland 100 years ago, is one of the century's most important architects. This exhibition includes his models, drafts and paintings. Hayward Gallery, South Bank SE1 (01-261 0127) from Thursday.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: This review of British art after 1980 takes up the story where the current Royal Academy show leaves off. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733), Tues-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until March 29. From Sun.

VICTOR NEWSOME: Drawings and paintings in tempera depicting the female form by an artist who works slowly and exhibits infrequently. Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-628 5161), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-3.30pm, free, Wed until March 28.

MOSKOWITZKY: Informative, atmospheric paintings and drawings by illustrator Tatiana Salmon depicting the Moscow suburb where she spent two months sketching. Morley Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 (01-228 8501), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, free, until April 2. From Thurs.

THE JAPANESE EYE: Japanese prints from Hokusai and Hiroshige to modern abstraction. Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow (041 552 4400), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat noon-4pm, free, until March 14.

THE FRAMPTON FLORA: Sociologically interesting collection of 300 flower pictures painted by three sisters between 1828 and 1851 and only rediscovered in 1982. Mead Gallery, Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (0203 41717), Mon-Fri noon-8pm, Sat 10am-8pm, free, until March 21.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Priority booking for three new productions, also revivals of *Don Giovanni*, *Cyprus and Carsten*, and *John*. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161) (01-240 5258 credit cards) (01-836 0111 enquiries). General booking from March 9.

KENT OPERA: Booking for new season with Eileen Hulse in *The Magic Flute*. Marlboro Box Office, Canterbury (0227 67245).

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL: Booking opens this week for friends and donors with programme including Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. June 12-28. Box Office, Aldeburgh Foundation, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (072 885 3543/2585).

CANDEN FESTIVAL: Booking opens Monday for premieres of operas by Britten/Welsh, Britten and Robert Ashley; also new ballet, concerts, film, jazz week and theatre programme. March 21-April 11. Shaw Theatre, St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 1394/6293).

LAST CHANCE

STATE OF THE ART: Artists from America, Europe and Australia explore issues which motivate making and reception of art today, linked to Channel 4 series *State of the Art*. Ends tomorrow, before touring to Newcastle, Preston, Bradford and Norwich. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 6393).

THE PRIVATE DEGA: More than 100 drawings, paintings, sculptures, posters and prints. Ends today. Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061 273 4865).

Thames: Jeremy Kingston: Films: Geoff Brown: Concerts: Max Harrison: Opera: Hilary Finch: Television, Radio and Films on TV: Peter Waymark: Rock: David Sinclair: Jazz: Richard Williams: Dance: John Percival: Galleries: David Lee: Photography: Michael Young: Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.



Ageing but still trendies: Ritchie Blackmore (left), Deep Purple guitarist, and Bad Company with Simon Kirke (far right).

Return of the supergroups

What with the fuss over the Beatles on CD, the successful launch of magazines like *Q* and *Arena*, and Johnnie Walker once again ensconced for hours on end on Radio 1, the soul of rock is rapidly being reclaimed by the now middle-aged generation that once launched it as an exclusively youth-orientated movement.

The Deep Purple/Bad Company tour which is currently doing astounding business in Europe arrives in Britain on Tuesday, and will doubtless lend further emphasis to this climate of unabashed reconstruction.

"The members of the two groups have a combined age that equals the national debt," is how Simon Kirke of Bad Company puts it, recalling that he first toured with Deep Purple in Australia as the drummer of Free in 1971.

Deep Purple and Bad Company were 1970s "supergroups" who reaped enormous success in their day, but who both fell victim to the treadmill effects of incessant recording and touring schedules. Between 1968 and their demise in 1976 Deep Purple released over a dozen albums, the most successful being the

million sellers *Machine Head* and *Made in Japan*. In April 1984 the band reformed, boasting the best line-up from the early days: Ritchie Blackmore (guitar), Ian Gillan (vocals), Jon Lord (keyboards), Roger Glover (bass) and Ian Paice (drums). They released an album, *Perfect Strangers*, that went platinum, and their 1985 tour of America was claimed to have generated more box-office receipts than any other act that year, bar Bruce Springsteen.

Although they were less popular in Britain, Bad Company actually scored four million-selling albums — *Bad Company*, *Straight Shooter*, *Run with the Pack* and *Desolation Angels* — in a career that lasted from 1974 to 1980. Their reformation last year seems to have been more by accident than by design, and came about when three of the original members — Mick Ralphs (guitar), Boz Burrell (bass) and Simon Kirke (drums) — found themselves stuck for a collective name, having recorded an album with a vocalist called Brian Howe. The sound commercial sense of calling the "new" act Bad Company was not lost on the quartet, nor on the original vocalist Paul

Rodgers, whose initial objections to the use of the name in his absence were mitigated by the formulation of an "amicable financial arrangement".

The mood of pragmatic professionalism that these musicians exude could not be more at odds with the tempestuous attitudes that marked the early stages of their careers. As